Hafa Adai!

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NatGeo book features beauty of the CNMI. Page 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Nearly $1B grants flow to CNMI

Since 2018, with the one-two punch of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu that flattened a large part of the CNMI, to the economic ruin caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the CNMI has so far been allocated federal assistance amounting to a cumulative total of nearly $1 billion. Some of that has already been awarded and some are in the pipeline.

See $1B on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 21, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,675	211	3,886
Recovered	2,297	57	2,354
Active	1,255	211	1,466
Deaths	67	2	69
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		58,321	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	86	2	88
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		19,345*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

EHDP shuts down bakery

Marg's Bakery & Kitchen in Susupe. NEIL FAMA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

After two inspections, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health Disease Prevention office temporarily shut down Marg's Bakery & Kitchen in Su-

See EHDP on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Motorists slow down as they pass through a sewer construction site in Chalan Kiya yesterday. More infrastructure development projects in the CNMI are expected, with the islands receiving a total of nearly $1 billion in federal grants.

IPI accuses CNMI govt of overcharging

» IPI says $3M casino regulatory fee is unlawful taxation disguised as a fee

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC claimed yesterday that it has been and is being overcharged by the CNMI government when it is being made to pay a $3 million casino regulatory fee on top of the $15 million casino license fee.

See IPI on Page 4

GIG to be converted into cannabis store, lounge

» Zoning approves company's application to operate 2 marijuana retail stores, 2 lounges in Garapan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

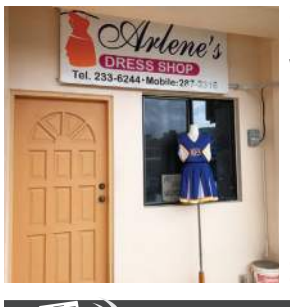
The Commonwealth Zoning Board has approved a company's proposal to renovate and occupy two buildings in Garapan, including the former GIG

See GIG on Page 4

NMC DEMOLITION

A large excavator truck is loaded with flooring and building debris yesterday, as the demolition of Northern Marianas College buildings in As Terlaje continues. The demolition started last month, Sept. 9, and aims to demolish and flatten buildings A, A1, B, B1 C, D, E, F, G, H, I, Q, R, and S. Danny Vatalla, the project supervisor, said the project has a completion date of January 2021. The NMC campus was severely damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. This demolition project is the first step to the rebuilding of the campus. NEIL FAMA

INSIDE



BUSINESS
What used to be R-Lyn's Dress Shop is now called Arlene's Dress Shop and has relocated.
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NATION
Democrats fear the Supreme Court justices' 4-4 tie in an election case is an ominous sign.
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ASIA
President Rodrigo Duterte says he accepts responsibility for those killed in his crackdown on drugs.
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Local

Question of Propst's replacement still up in the air

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REPORTER

The question of who will replace former lawmaker Edwin K. Propst as a representative of Precinct 1 in the House of Representatives remains up in the air, with neither Gov. Ralph DLG Torres nor House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) appointing a replacement.

A check with the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon showed that Attao has yet to announce a vacancy.

Speaking at last week's radio news briefing, Torres said he will look at what the law states and then he will follow what the law requires him to do. Torres said he believes he has 30 days to appoint someone to fill that vacancy. "I do plan to fulfill [what the law requires]," said the governor.

Propst resigned last Oct. 1; his term was supposed to end on Jan. 11, 2021. His name is still on the ballot for this Nov. 3 general elections. He has yet to answer *Saipan Tribune*'s question as to what he will do if Precinct 1 voters elect him anew.

With Propst's resignation, Franklin Reyes Babauta, a retired official of the Department of Public Safety, will likely be given the chance to serve Precinct 1 and the Commonwealth in the two-plus months that remain in Propst's term. Babauta has also yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s question whether or not he is interested in being appointed to the position.

Attao earlier stated that the CNMI Constitution requires vacancies in the Legislature to be filled by the appointment of the unsuccessful candidate with the most votes in the previous election. Attao said that, if he is not mistaken it's Babauta. He conceded, though, that the individual also has to accept the appointment.

Babauta, who ran as an independent candidate, landed in seventh place in the 2018 election for Precinct 1, where there were six vacant House positions.

Babauta's wife, Celina, is running under the Democratic Party for House Precinct 1 this Nov. 3.

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To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Man who sexually abused minors is sentenced to 30 years in prison

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A 39-year-old man who admitted to sexually abusing male minors in the span of nine years was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

As part of the plea deal, though, 15 years of Allan Aguon Lifoifoi's sentence was suspended, so he will only serve the remaining 15 years, to be served day by day and without the possibility of parole, early release, work release, or furlough.

Lifoifoi pleaded guilty before the Superior Court to two charges as part of the plea deal: sexual abuse of a minor in the first and second degrees. The sentence for both charges will run concurrently with one another. Lifoifoi will also be placed on probation for 10 years after his release. He was also ordered to pay all court costs and fees that have yet to be determined and was ordered to have no contact with any of his victims.

Lifoifoi was also ordered to register with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry, submit to examinations and decisions made by the Community Guidance Center, and complete recommended courses of treatment deemed necessary by the CGC or Office of Adult Probation.

Lifoifoi is also prohibited from owning or using a firearm, any dangerous device or weapon, ammunitions, and Airsoft weapons.

Lifoifoi must obey all CNMI and federal laws as well as rules of the Office of Adult Probation or he risks revocation of probation and could face contempt of court charges.

The Commonwealth was represented in this case by assistant attorney general Erin Toolan while Lifoifoi was represented by chief public defender Douglas Hartig.

According to the plea agreement, Lifoifoi had sexual contact with an 8-year-old boy on or about Jan. 1, 2011, while serving as a legal guardian to the child. Nine years later, on March 7, 2020, Lifoifoi touched the private parts of the same victim.

Lifoifoi also admitted to having sexual contact with another minor on July 1, 2018, and a different minor on March 1, 2020.

UFO takes part in beach cleanup

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A total of 18 members of the United Filipino Organization took part in cleaning up the San Isidro Beach Park in Chalan Kanoa last Saturday.

According to Mar Masilungan, UFO president, the San Isidro Beach Park is one of the sites identified by the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers that is open for adoption under the council's Public-Private Partnership program, which aims to harness the private sector in the development and maintenance of the CNMI's parks and tourist sites. Masilungan said the cleanup was UFO's response to the GCEA's call in adopting the park, which is also known as Laly 4.

The cleanup was also part of the UFO's commitment to provide community service in the CNMI, he added.

Masilungan said that volunteers from nine different Filipino organizations under the umbrella of UFO participated in the cleanup. "UFO would like to thank the [Saipan Mayor's Office] and the Division of Parks and Recreation for assistance in hauling and proper disposal of the collected trash, and every individual who volunteered their time for the cleanup," said Masilungan.

This isn't the first time UFO has contributed to the community. Last April 29, UFO donated relief goods to families who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Masilungan, the organization's representatives began distributing the food donations since Good Friday, and, so far, a total of 1,000 bags of 10- and 20-lb rice and assorted canned goods have been given away.

When the Taal Volcano in the Philippines erupted earlier this year, UFO collected donations of money that were sent out to help victims purchase relief goods,

Candidates at a Glance

The Saipan Tribune will be coming out with a supplement,

#voteCNMI

in October 29 featuring candidates in the November election.

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
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NatGeo book features beauty of the CNMI

The CNMI joins a collection of breathtaking photographs and short stories about America's 50 states, six territories, and Washington, D.C. in a new National Geographic book, *America the Beautiful,* that also features quotes from people from those places about what they love most about their home.

The book, which calls the CNMI as the "Ageless Northern Mariana Islands," quotes Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who gives readers a glimpse of the CNMI and its people. "Imagine feeling that the land beneath your feet has been home to your ancestors for thousands of years. That is how the people of the Marianas feel every day. As minute as our islands may be in the vastness of the Pacific, they are enduring. And we feel enduringly rooted to them," he said.

The book aims to showcase what makes the whole of United States great by featuring wild and beautiful places on both land and sea and to remember the beauty of travel. This collection was inspired by the earlier travels across the United States by English professor Katharine Lee Bates in the 1800's who also wrote the poem *America the Beautiful* that later became a song and a patriotic anthem of Americans today.

Other places featured in the book are Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Tennessee, Wyoming, Colorado, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Businessman, philanthropist, and chemical engineer Robert F. Smith appreciates the diversity of Colorado's geography and its people. "People come to Colorado to experience its natural beauty and its welcoming people who possess a uniquely pioneering spirit," he said.

Award-winning singer and songwriter Jewel describes her home state of Alaska as the last frontier. "It's a wild, vast land no fence can tame. Alps challenge the sky on the white wings of glaciers, the tips of which touch the taciturn sea in their slow migration. Bent grass tells of a bear's quiet wandering. The songs of wolves fill the night skies. The northern lights is a spectacle beyond any psychedelic. Alaska is one of the last truly wild places, a treasure…"

Former President Barrack Obama represented his place of birth in this book. "No place else could have provided me with the environment in which I could not only grow, but also get a sense of being loved. There is no doubt that the residue of Hawaii will always stay with me; it's a part of my core. What's best in me and what's best in my message, is consistent with the tradition of Hawaii," he said.

America the Beautiful: A Story in Photographs is currently a bestseller and available on amazon.com. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

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35th ANNIVERSARY SALES EVENT
HYUNDAI mazda MITSUBISHI

2014 FIAT FIAT 500C CONVERTIBLE
34,718 MILES · STK: 14BC73400
SALE PRICE $7,995
KBB: 7,365

2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK
24,305 MILES · STK: 17BC53703
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $11,846

2015 NISSAN ROUGE SELECT
35,935 MILES · STK: 15BC56520
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $10,956

$0 DOWN *ON APPROVED CREDIT ★ QUALITY USED CARS ★ MANY VEHICLES BELOW COST

2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4
14,339 MILES · STK:18BC54885
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $9,196

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
29,072 MILES · STK:16BC051
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $12,943

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
28,889 MILES · STK:18BC54873
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,219

2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4
13,073 MILES · STK:18BC54880
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $9,318

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
35,868 MILES · STK:16BC091
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $13,365

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
15,847 MILES · STK:18BC54860
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,545

2015 NISSAN ROUGE SELECT
52,781 MILES · STK:15BC56523
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $10,151

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK
47,079 MILES · STK:18HS938-A
SALE PRICE $13,995
KBB: $14,681

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
16,856 MILES · STK:18BC54859
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,796

2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4
11,239 MILES · STK:18BC54883
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $9,364

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK
39,217 MILES · STK:20H068-A
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,830

2015 MAZDA MAZDA3 HATCHBACK
56,995 MILES · STK:5R219
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,460

2015 NISSAN ROUGE SELECT
35,753 MILES · STK:15BC56519
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $10,956

2018 KIA FORTE LX
10,808 MILES · STK:18HS919
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $17,676
SOLD

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C
31,932 MILES · STK:20D134-A
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $16,685

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS
39,201 MILES · STK:7R220
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $12,682

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK LX
9,422 MILES · STK:18HS918
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $18,614

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
9,130 MILES · STK:18HS860
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SOLD

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$1B

From Page 1

Citing figures provided by the CNMI Office of Grants Management, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers said the CNMI is looking at nearly $1 billion worth of grants that would help the islands recover from Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the council, which he co-chairs, sees the strategic acquisition of grants for infrastructure improvement and projects as a significant factor in getting the CNMI economy back on track.

"Recovery has been at the top of our priorities since 2018, and we have done our due diligence to ensure we maximize federal grant opportunities to expedite home rebuilding, infrastructure improvement, and economic development to bring us back to where we were before Super Typhoon Yutu. We will be implementing a whole-of-government approach for our recovery to make sure our islands are stronger and more resilient against future disasters," Torres said.

"The hard-earned attainment of the hundreds of millions of federal dollars that are anticipated to assist the CNMI's recovery are critical in leveraging additional funding to resolve the $1.4 billion in estimated infrastructure projects determined during the CNMI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update," said GCEA Tourism and Infrastructure Reboot Committee chair Alex Sablan, who used to serve as commissioner of the CEDS in 2015 and 2018.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently approved the CNMI's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery action plan submitted by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., providing $244 million for the recovery needs of the islands from the two typhoons.

There is also the more than $80-million grant from the Economic Development Administration, and among the projects being considered for this funding are the Civic Center-Cultural Center and improvements at the Oleai Sports Complex, office expansion of the Department of Finance, and three other projects that involve the Northern Marianas College, Public School System, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

Funds for waste management; other critical grants

Part of the record grants is the $56 million for Solid Waste Management from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and GCEA Domestic Policy Committee member Gary Sword said this must be utilized to begin to reverse the trend of environmental pollution and the public health and economic threat to the islands.

"Tourism is the economic pillar of the CNMI and is being challenged by scattered garbage in beaches and poor ocean water quality that is a public health hazard. [Garbage] will hurt our economy and have serious ecological damage across the CNMI," Sword said.

He added that an efficient and cost-effective way of waste management is no trade secret, as it involves proper collection and disposal and recycling.

Meanwhile, other grants that have been awarded to the CNMI include $9,325,974 and $6,022,764 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant for Mangkut and Yutu, respectively, and the $5 million for the Historic Preservation Office from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The OGM is also expecting $4,269,064 from the Federal Highway Administration for the Department of Public Works. NMHC, on the other hand, has been awarded $275,414 and is anticipating an additional $815,225 from HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant (for COVID-19), while the grant from CARES Act provided the corporation with $549,270 and the supplemental $274,635 are forthcoming.

"The funding made available by Congress to support the development of the CNMI's infrastructure is certainly bolstered by the hard work and effort put forward by the administration and the COVID-19 Task Force in keeping our community safe and saving lives throughout our islands," said Sablan, adding that GCEA recognizes the extensive effort by the NMHC in securing the CDBG-DR grants.

"The GCEA is very impressed with the administrations' effort to work with their federal partners to generate nearly $1 billion in FEMA, EDA, DOE, and OIA grants. This is simply unprecedented in CNMI history and a key step in resolving our long-standing systemic infrastructure issues, helping our community recover from disasters, and rebuilding our economy," said Sablan. ***(PR)***

EHDP

From Page 1

supe yesterday for alleged multiple violations.

According to a CHCC statement, the EHDP had received a complaint of food contamination at the bakery last Oct. 16 and, after an inspection on that day, the inspectors identified inadequacies to the food item in question and advised the bakery to stop selling the product until proper documentation could be provided to validate the food source.

EHDP then did a follow-up inspection on Oct. 20 and found that the establishment was not able to provide the necessary documents. That led to Marg's Bakery & Kitchen being placed on temporary suspension for "critical violations" to Public Health Food regulations. EHDP said the case continues to be investigated.

Details of the alleged violation were not immediately available.

Public Law 12-48 and the Public Health Food Regulations require any establishment or activity involving food or drink service to meet minimum standards to keep consumables safe, from the beginning of food processing to the point of consumer consumption.

All food service establishment employees and/or employers are also required to obtain a food handlers certificate validating the completion of the mandatory food safety training and health examination. EHDP is responsible for enforcing these rules.

Warren Villagomez, who heads the COVID-19 Task Force, says other business establishments have so far been compliant with all COVID-19 directives. He commended businesses for taking extra precautions and heeding the recommendations of the task force, the Bureau of Environmental Health, the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the Department of Public Works.

He expressed his gratitude to businesses for their cooperation, as well as to the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers acting as a "solid liaison" with the business community in relaying information that is necessary to safeguard the public.

As for the Public School System, Villagomez said that PSS has been working closely with the task force. Right now, PSS is conducting mostly online classes and there is no word yet on the resumption of face-to-face instruction. Villagomez said they will provide updates with the growth of public school activity as they move forward.

Additionally, Villagomez said that PSS is "on top of its game plan" when it comes to COVID-19 measures.

IPI

From Page 1

IPI, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, said the regulatory fee should have been included in the "already high" $15 million license fee.

The statutory underpinning for this action, 4 CMC Section 2309, that mandates the casino regulatory fee, is unconstitutional and is an unlawful taxation disguised as a fee, said Dotts in IPI's answer and affirmative defense to Commonwealth Casino Commission acting executive director Andrew Yeom's complaint.

"The casino regulatory fee is unconstitutional as it consists of an impoundment of funds," the lawyer said.

Yeom recently filed a complaint against IPI before the CCC board over IPI's failure to pay the $3.1 million annual regulatory fee that was due last Oct. 1. Yeom, through assistant attorney general Michael L. Ernest, filed two claims against IPI for violation of the Commonwealth Code and CCC regulation, a claim for breach of contract, and a claim for declaratory order.

Before this, in August, Yeom filed a complaint against IPI before the CCC board over its failure to pay the $15.5 million annual casino license fee by the deadline last Aug. 12.

In IPI's affirmative defense to the latest complaint, Dotts said CCC operates for less than the amount that IPI pays, and the overpayment is impounded for use by the Executive Branch without appropriation by the Legislature.

Dotts said the statute mandating the casino regulatory fee is unconstitutional for being excessive and deprives IPI of its property without due process of law. He said the fee set by the statute is arbitrary and excessive.

He said the statute mandating the casino regulatory fee is unconstitutional as it violates the right to equal protection of the laws.

"There are other regulated industries that do not pay a fee to the agencies that regulate them beyond the license fee, such as banks, insurance companies, and poker parlors," Dotts said.

The lawyer said Yeom's claims are barred by its breach of the Casino License Agreement by not enforcing the exclusivity that IPI was to enjoy and its failure to address "unlawful gaming activity."

He said any payment due should be stayed until IPI's exclusivity provision is enforced.

Dotts said IPI is excused from performing in accordance with the doctrine of "force majeure."

He said the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected IPI's business since December 2019. He said the pandemic forced the closure of IPI's business entirely on March 17, 2020, and by order of the CNMI, is still not allowed to reopen.

Even if allowed to reopen, Dotts said, there are no tourists coming to Saipan and no recovery is expected in the tourist market until May 2021 at the earliest. Because of these forces beyond the control of IPI, the company need not pay the annual regulatory fee, he said.

The lawyer told *Saipan Tribune* that he believes that in the past, money has been transferred to other agencies because CCC had more than it needed and the other agencies were short. He said the CCC should only receive as much funding as it actually needs.

Dotts said the $15 million license fee, which is more than enough to cover regulation by CCC, should go into the general fund and the Legislature, as part of the annual budget process, should appropriate to CCC only as much as CCC needs.

"Doing otherwise is unconstitutional," he said.

GIG

From Page 1

Discotheque, for its cannabis or marijuana retail shops and lounges.

During a Zoning board public hearing held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret Tuesday night, board chair Tatiana Babauta, treasurer Perry A. Inos Jr., and members Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. and Kevin Guerrero voted in favor of Tuu Group LLC's conditional use applications.

Vice chair Francisco Aguon was excused from the hearing. No one from the public opposed the applications.

Guerrero said this industry requires a huge financial risk as it's a new industry. "I am very grateful, and I am sure the community as well, to Tuu Group for taking such an interest and taking the lead," said Guerrero before he voted to approve the application.

Tuu Group, represented by lawyer Joaquin DLG Torres, proposes to renovate and occupy the second floor of the former GIG Discotheque for its cannabis retail store.

GIG Discotheque used to be a bar and disco. The building is shaped like a giant Egyptian pyramid with two large sphinxes guarding the main entrance.

Tuu Group also proposes to renovate and occupy the first floor of the same building for its cannabis lounge. The area is zoned as Garapan Core district.

The company also proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting one-story building near the Elegance Restaurant for its cannabis retail use and a portion of the same building for its cannabis lounge area. The area is zoned as mixed commercial district.

Pertaining to the old GIG building, Zoning enforcement technician Juan Iguel said the company is planning to put up four indoor lounges, including a VIP room, and an outdoor lounge area.

Torres said the company will be selling products, varying from cannabis useful flowers, cannabis concentration for inhalation, cannabis concentration for consumption, and edibles that have compounds like cannabidoil or CBD.

"But all these items will be regulated. Weighed properly. Will be checked for quality control. They have all the necessary warnings," Torres said.

He said the two retail stores and lounges will be watched by a security guard or bouncer to keep the areas safe.

Torres said the owner of the company has extensive experience with the industry in Washington and has a business in Washington as well.

"So this is the kind of experience that we'd like to bring in to the CNMI," the lawyer said.

With respect to the GIG building, Torres said the retail application will be on the second floor. The lounge will be on the first floor.

Torres said there will be proper ventilation at both Garapan facilities.

Torres said the lounge area will be used for patrons to purchase the items sold upstairs and they can use it downstairs. "So this would be beneficial for customers that come in and purchase the items," the lawyer said.

With respect to the other facility, Torres said the lounge will be used for customers that purchase the items either from Tuu Group's retail shop or from other facilities.

Torres said customers will use the lounge to hang out with friends and have a good time, safe and out of the public's eyes.

Zoning administrator Geralyn C. Dela Cruz said Zoning staff have found the conditional use permit applications by the Tuu Group LLC to be acceptable. "Therefore, the zoning staff recommends the approval of Tuu Group LLC conditional use application," Dela Cruz said.

HTS Construction, owned by Hector T. Sevilla, is the contractor of Tuu Group. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Tuu Group is composed of Taiwanese investors.

The Zoning Board recently approved the applications for cannabis farming for Tuu Group in As Mahetog, Primo Farms on Capital Hill, and Marianas Hemps Farms in As Teo.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS FOR AN EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM FUNDED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-COVID FUNDS BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was allocated the third round of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)- COVID funds. The intended use of the funds is to provide food assistance to eligible CNMI residents who have been financially impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is requesting for grant proposals from non-profit organizations to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to procure food, ***specifically to distribute food vouchers.*** Proposals will be due to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, Saipan, and in the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, no later than 4:30 pm, Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 670-234-6866 or by email at deputydirector@nmhcgov.net.

Minimum Application Requirements

1) 501(c)(3) designated organizations classified as a public charity with a minimum of two (2) year operating history as a non-profit
2) Articles of Incorporation
3) By-Laws
4) Non-Profit Annual Corporation Report
5) Business License and Tax ID Number
6) Current listing of Active Board of Directors (within the last 12 months)
7) Current listing of active employees
8) A statement of financial position (balance sheet) and a statement of financial activity for the prior year end, to be submitted with the application
9) Proof of Workmen's Compensation
10) Submission of a list of any other grant money received and balance to date

Application Information

In addition to the requirements above, a grant application is required. The Grant application is available on NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net. Please click the CDBG tab to access the application. **The application submission deadline is Wednesday, October 28, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m.**

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Drivers written testing center closed half-day on Friday and all day on Monday

On Friday, Oct. 23, 2020, the drivers written testing center will be closed from 7:30am through 12:30pm for staff training and will resume services at 1pm that day.

It will be closed all day on Monday, Oct. 26, 2020, for continued training and certification. Drivers written testing will resume the following day on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, at 7:30am.

All other services, including on-road driving tests, vehicle registration, boat registration, and driver's license renewal are not affected.

For more information regarding the driver's written, call the BMV office at 664-9069. ***(PR)***

OVR sets public outreach

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be conducting business and employer engagements regarding various programs offered by OVR for clients/consumers throughout the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These may include private and public sectors, government agencies, residential visits, and religious entities (churches).

If any potential clients/consumers and/or employers are interested or would like to know more about our programs, contact our office at (670) 322-6537/38/39 or (670) 287-6609 and/or email maryann@ovrgov.net. ***(PR)***

5.3-magnitude quake at Alamagan

At 11:38pm on Oct. 20, 2020, a report of a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Alamagan region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruption today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, Oct. 22, 2020, from 9am to 1pm for the Kagman 3 Phase 3 area. This will allow linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to replace rusted power pole hardware on 15 primary power poles along Lalanghita Road in Kagman 3 Phase 3. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. ***(PR)***

National novel-writing month starts soon

November is National Novel-Writing Month, more popularly known as NaNoWriMo. The goal is to write a 50,000-word novel in 30 days. If you want to write a novel, or any other book, there's nothing like a deadline to help you get it done. Writers age 13 and older can join the worldwide online group at www.nanowrimo.org. Writers under age 13 can join the Young Writers Program at http://ywp.nanowrimo.org. There is no charge to join. But writing *must wait* until Nov. 1, when the fun starts. ***(PR)***

Bankruptcy seminar in Guam and CNMI

The District Courts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, in partnership with the Guam and CNMI Bar Associations, are hosting a virtual and in-person Bankruptcy Seminar on Oct. 30,2020, from 8am to 10am (GMT+10).

The seminar is open to Guam and CNMI bar members, banking institutions, lenders, debtors, creditors, real estate agents, brokerage firms, and businesses. You must register with the CNMI Bar Association to attend this second seminar. Registration fee is $25. Continuing Legal Education Credits: Two general credits

For more information and details, contact the CNMI Bar Association via email at cnmibar@gmail.com or the District Court for the NMIs Lawyer Representative, Vince J. Seman at (670) 483-7911, or email at vjseman@semanlaw.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028 Revision No.2

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi WTTP Clarifier in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have purchased this IFB before you do not have to repurchase but you would need to register with our office to receive a package.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier Revision No. 2" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) November 17, 2020,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on November 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer and to CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician, Christie L. Sablan at christie.sablan@cucugov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ21-GOV-003
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance (PA) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the Supply of Materials, Labor & Equipment for the Repairs/Renovation and/or New Construction of Public Facilities as a result of Typhoon Mangkut and Yutu (FEMA DR-4396-MP and FEMA DR-4404-MP) for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package and scope of work will be available on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at the Governor's Public Assistance Office, MH I Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan.
A MANDATORY Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 10:00am at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing to Mr. Patrick Guerrero, Public Assistance Officer, facsimile to (670) 664-2417 or email pguerrero@pa.gov.mp no later than 4 p.m., ChST, November 6, 2020.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications & Experience in Construction including Firm's Profile	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	30%
3. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	15%
4. Project and/or Management Approach	15%
5. Visual examples of previous works	10%

Performance time for completion of the Repair/Renovation and/or New Construction will be dependent on the type of project. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top Five (5) ranked firms. The Public Assistance Office may elect to retain all of the top 5 firms. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Depending on the number of projects, the PA Office will request each firm to submit a price quotation for these projects, and selection will be based on the lowest cost.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-003, Construction Services** For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, November 16, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI shall obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent form that is provided in this RFQ. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, November 16, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. Note that failure to submit this Notice of Intent Form will be cause for rejection of proposal (This only applies for proposers located outside of the CNMI). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, November 16, 2020, and must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than November 25, 2020. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Toys for Tots campaign starts in Guam and CNMI

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. ANDREW KING

Staff Sgt. John Ewald, assistant coordinator for Toys for Tots in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, delivers donation boxes to the Grand Plaza Hotel in Guam to kick off the 2020 Toys for Tots Campaign on Oct. 14, 2020. This year marks the 73rd year of the National Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign and the 11th year in Guam.

DEDEDO, Guam—Camp Blaz of the U.S. Marine Corps Base officially began the "Toys for Tots" campaign in Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Now on its 11th year in Guam and sixth year in the CNMI, Marines MCB Camp Blaz delivered this week toy collection boxes to participating organizations and businesses

Last year over 8,100 toys were collected in Guam and more than 2,100 in the CNMI, all going to over 5,300 children in Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

While Toys for Tots is coordinated and organized by the U.S. Marine Corps, the ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people who donate toys.

"This is a difficult time for numerous families as they face the negative impacts of the pandemic," said Col. Bradley Magrath, commanding officer of MCB Camp Blaz. "This is an opportunity for us to unite as a community and provide hope and joy to the children and families of those less fortunate. This year even more families are in need and we intend to honor our commitment and responsibility to the community by executing our Toys for Tots campaign."

MCB Camp Blaz will be executing the Toys for Tots campaign with strict adherence to all local and national guidelines for COVID-19. "All Marines, volunteers and participants of the Toys for Tots program will be required to wear face coverings, wash their hands before and after events and practice social distancing," said Staff Sgt. John Ewald, the assistant program coordinator for the Toys for Tots campaign. Any Marines or volunteers who feel sick or display any symptoms will not be allowed to participate. Additionally, all toys will be sanitized while they are sorted by age and gender.

If you would like to participate and donate to Toys for Tots, drop a newly purchased, unwrapped toy to one of the many businesses or organizations who have volunteered to be drop- off locations. For a complete list of locations on Guam and important dates visit the MCB Camp Blaz Facebook page, @MCB-campblaz, or Instagram page, @mcbcampblaz. For a list of locations on Saipan contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150.

Toys for Tots, a 73-year national charitable program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, provides happiness and hope to disadvantaged children during each Christmas holiday season through the gift of a new toy.

Last year the Marine Toys for Tots Program fulfilled the holiday hopes and dreams of 7.3 million children in 800 communities nationwide by distributing 18.6 million toys. Since 1947 over 265 million children have been assisted and 584 million toys distributed. ***(PR)***

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Bad policies are turning colleges into COVID-19 hotbeds

Brigham Young University's Idaho campus is investigating reports that its students have been intentionally exposing themselves to the new coronavirus in hopes that after the illness passes their blood will have money-making antibodies.

Plasma donation centers are paying top dollar for so-called convalescent plasma, which is being studied as a possible treatment for COVID-19. It's helpful to scientists to have the plasma available, but that shouldn't come at the expense of people endangering themselves and those around them.

This is just one example of how colleges have become the focal point of rising infection rates this fall. And though campus outbreaks have resulted in only a couple of deaths so far, there are signs of infections spreading through small college towns—and fears about what will happen when students return home for the holidays.

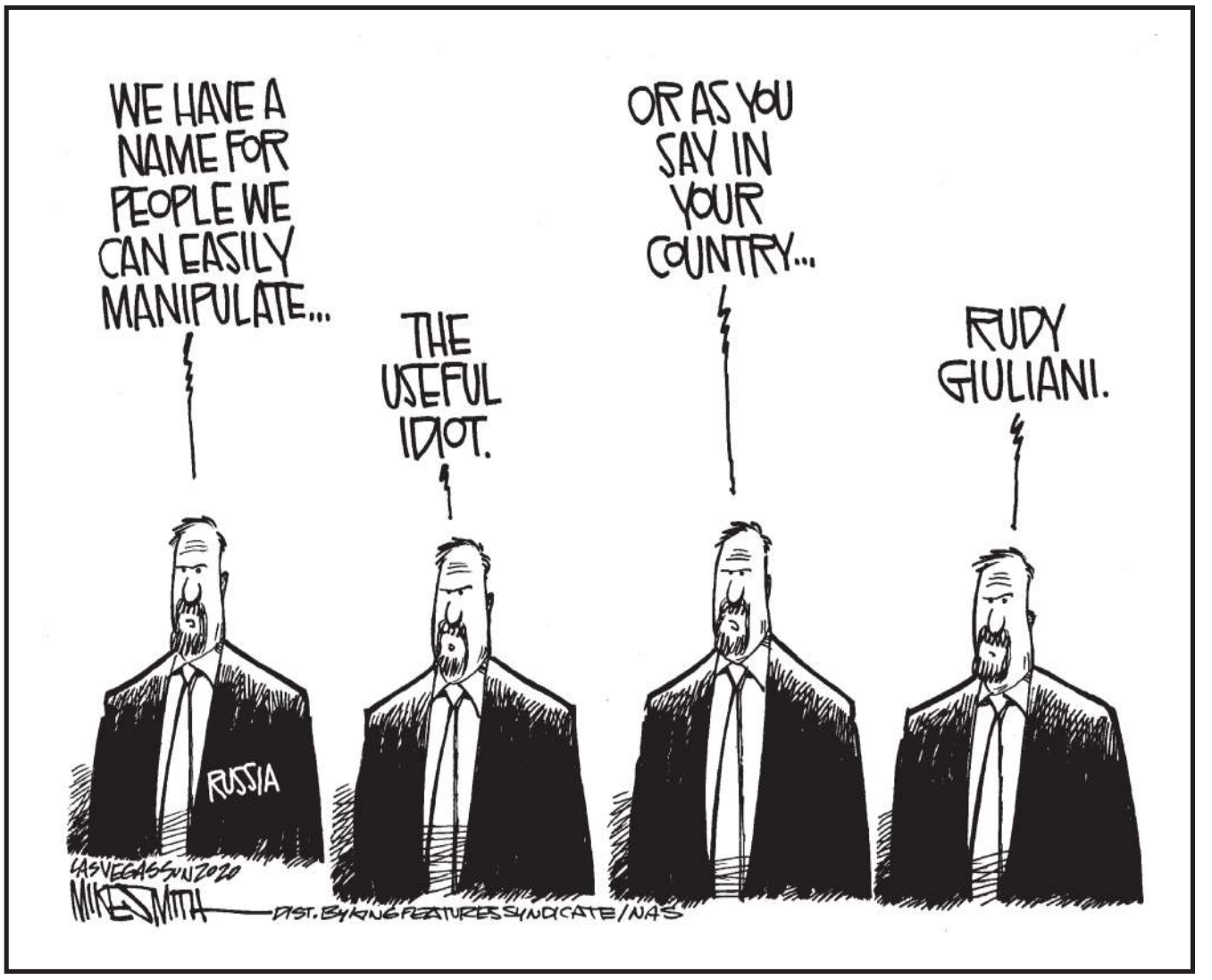
The college COVID situation isn't like those at K-12 schools, where even outbreaks of just two or three people have been fairly uncommon. At individual colleges and universities, the numbers of cases have been in the dozens, the hundreds and, in some cases, the thousands. Depending on who's counting and how, the total number of students and staff infected at colleges and universities so far this fall is somewhere between 130,000 and 170,000.

After decades of inability to curb binge drinking and dangerous fraternity hazing, it's almost quaint that college administrators thought they would get students to hunker down in solo dorm rooms and don a mask before socializing at careful 6-foot distances.

There's plenty of blame to go around, including schools that based their decisions on economics, not safety, and that haven't been regularly testing and tracing. To say that students at many schools haven't followed safety rules would be the COVID understatement of the last couple of months. They came for college life, which means parties, often with drinking that loosens caution. Even at schools that held all their classes online, such as UC Santa Barbara and USC, some students returned to their off-campus rentals, either because they couldn't get out of their leases or they wanted to see their friends. USC, which is on remote learning this fall, nonetheless experienced more than 1,000 cases from students living just off campus.

In the absence of leadership from the federal government—and funding that would help preserve colleges and their students' educations—the schools were trapped into iffy decision-making. Students want to go to campus because, for many, college is as much about new friendships, sports and the first years of living away from home as it is about learning. Those who are willing to attend remotely seek steep discounts because of the thinner experience; colleges respond accurately that it's actually costing them more to teach remotely because of technology requirements

See COVID-19 on Next Page



Google is getting the antitrust treatment it deserves

By TAE KIM
Bloomberg Opinion

Tae Kim is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering technology. He previously covered technology for Barron's, following an earlier career as an equity analyst. For more articles like this, please visit us at bloomberg.com/opinion

The government's quest to rein in Big Tech just took a major step forward. Two weeks after the House antitrust subcommittee issued its landmark report outlining the anticompetitive abuses of the top players, the Department of Justice made its long-awaited move against Google.

The DOJ's antitrust division announced Tuesday that it is suing Google parent Alphabet Inc. over antitrust law violations surrounding its search engine, saying the company has become "the monopoly gatekeeper of the internet." The landmark case alleges Google abused its market-dominant position and stifled competitors, specifically citing its exclusionary distribution agreements with Apple Inc. and other technology companies that made its search engine the default option on mobile devices and browsers. Google, in a blog post rebuttal, called the suit "deeply flawed," adding consumers choose to use its free search engine because they prefer it. Eleven Republican state attorneys general signed on to the case.

For months now, we've known that the DOJ has been preparing an antitrust case against Google. What we didn't know was how far-reaching it would be. There was speculation that regulators would rush out a half-baked complaint to meet a political deadline. It turns out, the government is pursuing the tech giant full-on by targeting the company's crown-jewel Google search engine. That's good, because the situation demands it.

This initial step is a savvy move. First, the government is focusing on the most pertinent issue with the largest impact—Google's search engine dominance. It's a higher priority than the company's ad-serving technology platform, which, while powerful, accounts for a smaller portion of Alphabet's earnings and wouldn't have been as significant for the technology industry at large. Second, the lawsuit zeroes in on Google's most egregious behavior, including the large cash payments it makes to partners to maintain its search share. This will pay dividends as the focus helps crystalize what's at stake and may sway public opinion and politicians to support further action.

Earlier this summer, I wrote how Google's practice of paying for platform placement was blatantly anticompetitive and should be banned. That view still stands. Bernstein estimates the internet giant pays Apple roughly $8 billion a year to make its search engine the default option for its hardware devices. A number that large for Google, which already has a monopoly-type position in the search market, is indefensible. Prohibiting such agreements that clearly suppress competition would allow smaller companies to have a chance.

The government can do more, though. While specific remedies will come later in the proceedings, other issues ought to be addressed on top of these payment practices. First, Google's use of scraping data off of third-party websites should be restricted. The act of taking other websites' proprietary content without permission to keep users on Google's properties doesn't seem fair. Second, the internet giant's practice of ranking its own services higher on its search results pages even when they are inferior should be scrutinized. The lawsuit, while a good start, is only the opening salvo in a legal battle that will extend well into the next administration, regardless of the winner of next month's presidential election.

Notably, no Democratic state attorneys generals have signed on to this DOJ lawsuit, but that's likely because they want to file a broader complaint later. The DOJ signaled as much on a press call Tuesday, adding that the attorneys' hesitation to join the suit wasn't for lack of support of the arguments. Unlike the large divergence between Republicans and Democrats on social media regulation, the two parties' positions on Google's overreach and the need for antitrust remedies aren't far apart.

Where do things go from here? I expect a growing bipartisan consensus to form against Google, with concrete actions to curb some of the aforementioned practices. Democratic Representative David Cicilline has said he is preparing legislation based on the proposals in the recent House antitrust final report. And some Republicans have already said there are portions of the House report they can support, meaning the DOJ may conceivably get more tools to curb Google's market power—and that of the other Big Tech behemoths such as Facebook Inc., Apple and Amazon.com Inc.—from congressional action next year as well.

This process won't be easy. But the likelihood of the government achieving effective restraints on Google's anticompetitive abuses shouldn't be underestimated.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Yes, COVID-19 is more serious for the elderly. So what?

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include* Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.

Advocates of "herd immunity" strategies often claim that COVID-19 is relatively safe for the young and that most of the victims are old. This observation is correct, but the question is what to make of it. Often the implication—stated or not—is that the response to the pandemic need not be so vigorous because the loss of life, as measured in years, is less than it appears.

It is an uncomfortable but necessary discussion, they say. So be it—but once the conversation turns to which deaths matter the most, other questions about COVID-19 start to arise, almost all of which push in the direction of a very vigorous response. When either foreign enemies or pathogens attack U.S. lives on a noticeable scale, the pushback needs to be very hard indeed.

Consider 9/11, when some 3,000 Americans died. The U.S. mounted a very activist response that included new security procedures at airports, crackdowns on money laundering, increased surveillance and two wars. Not all of those choices were prudent, but nonetheless they qualify as a very vigorous response.

The point is this: Had three Americans been killed rather than 3,000—if, say, 9/11 was a U.S. holiday the hijackers didn't know about, so fewer people were working—the optimal response would not have been all that different. There were a lot of casualties, but it is also significant that several airplanes were brazenly hijacked and flown into major iconic buildings, the Pentagon was hit, and Congress itself came under threat.

Polities that do not respond to such attacks soon find themselves out of business. Not only do they invite further intimidations, but their citizens lose faith in the government's ability to maintain public order or shape the future of the nation. The entire U.S. system of government may well have been at stake in the decision to respond to 9/11 in a significant way.

By contrast, about 3,500 Americans die each year in fires. To repeat: That is each year. Yet Americans have not responded to deaths by fire as they did to 9/11, nor has a major public discussion ensued.

To be clear, the U.S. probably should do more to limit the number of fire deaths. But they do not threaten the nation and constitutional order in the way that terrorist attacks do. How people die is crucial in helping a nation and society scale its response and frame the debate over what to do.

COVID-19 is obviously more like 9/11 than it is like the annual toll of fire deaths. It commands the headlines every day, has created a global economic depression, is reshaping global politics and the balance of power, causes extreme stress for millions and has significantly harmed America's global reputation. Yes, there have been some anxiety-driven overreactions, but it is inevitable that humans will respond dramatically to a major worldwide pandemic.

To be sure, the number of U.S. victims is high—220,000 and counting, plus some number of excess deaths from broader causes. But the event itself is so cataclysmic that "downgrading" those deaths by saying many of the victims were elderly doesn't make a big difference in terms of formulating an optimal response.

Furthermore, it is likely that coronaviruses will return, which is all the more reason to excel in response now. To consider another example, during the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS-1, 774 people died worldwide, none of them in America. The countries that took that virus seriously—Korea, Taiwan and Canada, to name a few—have performed much better during the current crisis. And many of the best biomedical responses, including vaccines and monoclonal antibodies, have evolved from very serious responses to previous pandemics.

One final (rather outlandish) thought experiment: Imagine that an enemy of the U.S. demanded that 100 90-year-old Americans be handed over each year for execution. Of course America would refuse. The age of the victims would not be a factor in that decision.

Pandemics have been civilization-altering events since the beginning of human history, and they still are—especially if we do not respond properly. The need to get the response right, not the relative worth of the young to that of the old, is the main thing that we should be obsessing about.

COVID-19

From Page 8

and other needs. And they're unable to bring in revenue from dormitories that stand empty, another blow to the budget.

More students than usual are taking gap years, hoping for an in-person college experience later on, but this creates its own problems. If too many students defer admission, schools will have to restrict the number of students admitted the following year. As a result, some colleges aren't reserving slots for these students.

There are strange bright spots to this scenario. Despite all the illness this fall, only a handful of cases have required hospitalization. There are signs that some outbreaks burn themselves out, with a steep rise followed by very few cases. Studies have found that reinfection is possible but very rare.

Yet the potential for danger is there. COVID-19 rates have risen sharply in small towns containing good-sized universities. And come the holidays, students will return to families and neighborhoods with vulnerable older people during a time of celebrations—and shorter, colder days, when more people gather indoors, where the virus is more easily spread.

Much of this could have been avoided if colleges had thought to do more than just test students and impose rules that everyone knew weren't going to be followed. They could have pressured landlords to allow students to break leases with a partial payment and offered incentives, such as a tuition discount or a quicker path to graduation, to students who agreed not to move near the campus. Additional options: Imposing modest pay cuts on higher-salaried employees and accepting more students off wait lists to boost enrollment.

We all have to recognize that the pandemic isn't going to just disappear and allow normal life to return anytime soon. Colleges, along with everyone else, are in this for the long term. Schools need more federal relief, but they also should stop assuming that relief can substitute for systemic changes in how they are run. Planning should start now for rethinking the college experience for the next couple of years, and perhaps beyond. But for right now: Don't let the kids go home without a COVID-19 test.

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What kind of country do we want?

By KEITH C. BURRIS
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Keith C. Burris is editor, vice president and editorial director of Block Newspapers *(kburris@post-gazette.com).*

If the confirmation hearings for Amy Coney Barrett were a football game, the score would be something like Barrett 43; Democratic senators 0.

It would be like the Pittsburgh Steelers of yore, or maybe the San Francisco 49ers in their heyday (because of the exactitude and grace), against a high school team. Or a high school reunion team.

But only the score is a fitting comparison. Football is the wrong analogy. No sport is the right analogy. Because in no sport can you combat the other team with mere blather, or even a "game plan." In sports, you can only compete with actual play.

And in politics, in law, in matters intellectual, you can ultimately only really engage argument and ideas with argument and ideas.

Judge Barrett had a basic argument—originalism. It is the notion that the Constitution (and even a statute) means what its authors and readers thought it meant when written, according to the common understanding of the words at the time.

More broadly, Judge Barrett argued for judicial humility—the idea that judges should not be the unacknowledged legislators of the world.

And she had very precise ideas about how to apply these constructs.

Her opponents (not all of them, there were a few who tried to engage on the idea level), had "gotcha" questions, fearmongering, sputtering rage and sneering as their weapons.

Judge Barrett, speaking without notes and with crystal clarity and amazing self-control and composition, ran rings around her inquisitors.

I thought of a law professor friend of mine who told me a few days back: People should relax. Judge Barrett is a serious jurist just as Elena Kagan was when Barack Obama picked her. She has a philosophical approach and will administer the law within the confines of that approach. Her approach is not mine, but she will not, any more than Kagan, bend the law to fit an ideology. The blessing, he said, was that President Donald Trump took his list of future judges from the Federalist Society rather than "Sheriffs for Trump" or some other campaign group. The Kagans, the Barretts, the Ginsburgs, are all, my friend said, people whose first loyalty is to the law and not a party or a president.

Judge Barrett pledged as much, in making her own case, in her hearings.

This brings us to Sen. Ben Sasse's plea for a Supreme Court of patriots and thinkers, as opposed to Democratic jurists or Republican ones. Great justices are capable of growth—of changing their minds, and disappointing the president who appointed them.

I am not convinced that originalism is the jurisprudence of a great justice. I think it is simplistic and self-contradictory. There is no such thing as a unified, common understanding of constitutional or legislative language, in any given moment. And what if what most folks thought was the meaning of a law then, now seems clearly, and totally and morally wrong?

But it is hard to argue with the idea of judicial humility and restraint (Bush v. Gore was neither), just as it is hard to argue against legislative or executive humility and restraint. That attitude is not only a useful corrective to governance but the frame of the founders. We should embrace it anew.

As Sasse averred, it's a question of what kind of Supreme Court we want.

If you go to watch the court, unlike watching the House or Senate in session, it's extremely impressive. The atmosphere, even for visitors, is rigorous and somber. There is no filibustering by lawyers or judges. Most Americans, if they saw it, would feel proud. That's because most Americans want a thinking court, not a political court. Not a court in the service of a party, or even a legal doctrine.

Judge Barrett didn't persuade me of everything she believes. But she did seem to me a thinking and independent judge. And I don't buy that she was faking it or hiding her radical opinions.

We aren't having debates about originalism or "the living Constitution" this year because the election is about personality.

The president has made it about his personality and his opponents have too.

My own view is that issues elections (at least occasional ones) are necessary for the relative progress of the country. In 1964, the country made a decision about direction. In 1960 and 2008, about men.

We need to talk again about direction. We need to talk about originalism, and whether abortion should be part of Obamacare, and how to deal with the mentally ill living on our streets, and preserving Social Security, and how we will finally rebuild the nation's infrastructure.

We also need to deal with some deep cultural issues, touched on in the Barrett hearings, because culture drives politics:

Is there only one way to be a feminist?

Is there only one way to seek God?

Is there only one kind of compassion?

Is there only one proper conception of American history?

We have to talk about not only what kind of high court we want but what kind of country we want.

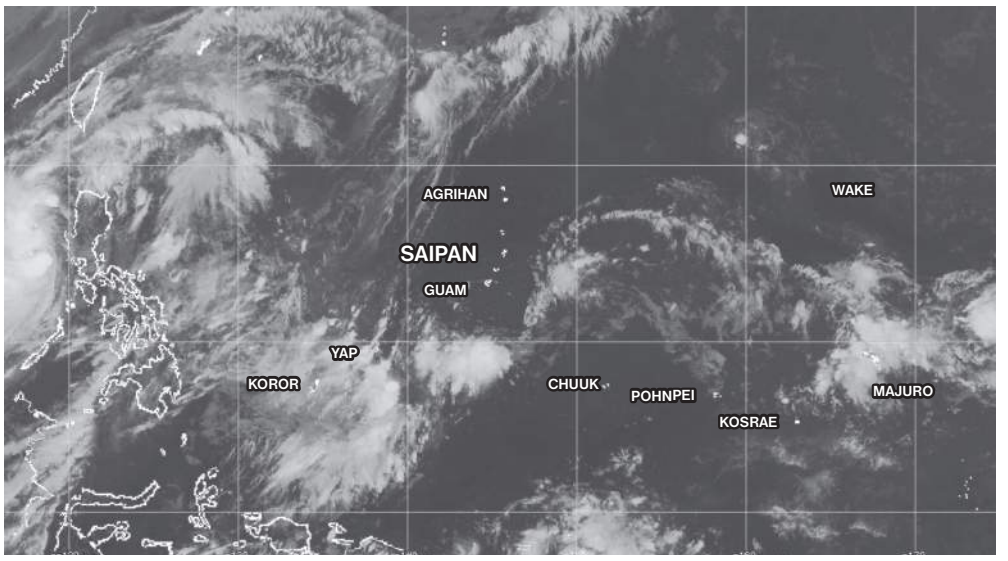
Congressional hearings used to be one place to converse. The press was another. Both seem wrecked at the moment. So we must fix them or find new ways to see and hear each other, not only to reach proximate compromises, but to forestall a permanently divided and mutually alienated nation.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:43 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and only a few showers moving through the Marianas waters this morning. An upper-level low with a few thunderstorms in tow can be seen to the east, moving westward. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet with occasional 7 foot values, composed mainly of east-northeast swell with some east wind waves superimposed on top.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:29 AM	10:58 PM	-
Friday	12:25 PM	11:55 PM	-
Saturday	1:16 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:50 AM	2:02 PM
Monday	-	1:43 AM	2:43 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	64° / 39°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°
London	Cloudy	63° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	75° / 50°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°
New York	Showers	77° / 71°
Osaka	Sunny	82° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	73° / 54°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	87° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 50°
Seoul	Showers	66° / 52°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	79° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:43 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.32
1:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
6:48 PM	LOW TIDE	1.24
10:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Arlene's Dress Shop rebrands and relocates

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

What used to be R-Lyn's Dress Shop & Sportswear has renamed itself as Arlene's Dress Shop and has relocated closer to Middle Road in Garapan.

The company moved to its new location at the Castro Building in front of Asia Car Wash along Kadena Di Amor Street, also in Garapan, only last July 15.

Owner Arlina Orda said the slow business due to COVID-19 and rising lease costs prompted her to move Arlene's Dress Shop to its new location. R-Lyn's Dress Shop was first established in April 2011 and used to be located along Beach Road in the building beside the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

While smaller than its previous location, Orda said Arlene's Dress Shop is still accessible to its loyal clientele.

She said the pandemic has really done a number on the company's operations, as business has been down 85% since the CNMI recorded its first COVID-19 case last March. "We've lost a lot of our steady customers like those for school uniforms, weddings, theme birthday parties, gender reveals, debuts, and other social events like costume parties and the likes because of COVID-19," she said.

Orda, however, is upbeat as the CNMI hasn't had any COVID-19 community transmission for more than two months now and is looking forward to the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force finally declaring the CNMI under Community Vulnerability Level Green.

MARK RABAGO
Owner Arlina Orda with staff Noel Baitlon and Michael Danao.

Arlene's Dress Shop is the exclusive supplier of uniforms for Grace Christian Academy and Green Meadows School and makes the P.E. uniforms for Mt. Carmel School.

Aside from school uniforms, Arlene's Dress Shop also makes wedding suits and dresses, Hawaiian shirts and dresses, costumes for all themed parties, graduation togas and mortarboards, and sports apparel for basketball, soccer, baseball, and other sports.

Recently, Arlene's Dress Shop has also started sewing Hawaiian print COVID-19 face masks and they're on sale at the shop and also at Pacific Quick Print for only $3.

Orda said her shop strictly abides by the guidelines set by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. "Of course, everyone has to wear a mask when they come inside and we have hand sanitizers for them when they come in. We can also entertain only a few customers at a time, in keeping with the strict guidelines of the task force," she said.

MARK RABAGO
Arlene's Dress Shop is now located at the Castro Building in front of Asia Car Wash along Kadena Di Amor Street in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO
Arlene's Dress Shop's Hawaiian print face masks.

Arlene's Dress Shop is open every day from 9am to 6pm. For more information, call 233-6244 or 287-2316.

DOCOMO PACIFIC powers COVID-19 contact tracing call center

TAMUNING, Guam—DOCOMO PACIFIC, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, has donated 10 mobile handsets to the University of Guam's ("UOG") call center of contact tracers.

As positive cases of COVID-19 continue to rise on the island, many community members wonder if there is more that can be done to control the spread. Early this October, UOG offered its support to the Department of Health and Social Services by setting up a call center for contact tracers, specifically to support the recently launched Guam COVID Alert App. DOCOMO PACIFIC joined this effort by donating telecom services.

The donation of handsets includes unlimited talk and text services to ensure the contact tracers have reliable connections needed to perform their contact tracing tasks.

"Contact tracing is one of the primary ways we will be able to slow the spread of Covid-19 throughout our island community. Thank you to DOCOMO PACIFIC for being a partner in this pilot program led by Public Health – we are truly better together in overcoming this pandemic," said Carlos Taitano, director, Global Learning and Engagement, University of Guam

We encourage you to add your phone to the COVID fight by downloading the free Guam COVID Alert app from the Apple or Google Play store today. ***(PR)***

Cathay Pacific cuts 8,500 jobs, shutters regional airline

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific Airways said Wednesday it would cut 8,500 jobs and shut a regional airline as it grapples with the plunge in air travel due to the pandemic.

About 5,300 employees based in Hong Kong and another 600 elsewhere will likely lose their jobs, and 2,600 unfilled positions will be cut. The cuts are about 24% of the company's workforce, Cathay Pacific said in a statement.

The company will also shut down Cathay Dragon, its regional airline unit, with operations ceasing from Wednesday. It will seek regulatory approval for most of the routes to be operated by Cathay Pacific and its budget airlines subsidiary HK Express.

The restructuring is aimed at reducing Cathay Pacific's cash burn to 500 million Hong Kong dollars ($64.5 million) a month, from about 1.5 billion Hong Kong dollars ($193.5 million) to 2 billion Hong Kong ($258 million) dollars currently, Cathay Pacific CEO Augustus Tang said in a statement.

"The global pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on aviation and the hard truth is we must fundamentally restructure the Group to survive," Tang said.

"We have to do this to protect as many jobs as possible, and meet our responsibilities to the Hong Kong aviation hub and our customers."

The restructuring plan will cost about 2.2 billion Hong Kong dollars ($283.8 million), the company said.

Executive pay cuts will also continue throughout 2021 and there will be no pay increments for 2021 nor bonuses for this year for all Hong Kong employees, Cathay Pacific said. Ground staff will also be offered a voluntary leave plan in the first half of next year.

In June, Cathay Pacific raised 39 billion Hong Kong dollars ($5 billion) in a recapitalization plan that gave the city's government a stake of about 6% in the airline.

How Trump plowed through $1B, losing cash advantage

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's sprawling political operation has raised well over $1 billion since he took the White House in 2017—and set a lot of it on fire.

Trump bought a $10 million Super Bowl ad when he didn't yet have a challenger. He tapped his political organization to cover exorbitant legal fees related to his impeachment. Aides made flashy displays of their newfound wealth — including a fleet of luxury vehicles purchased by Brad Parscale, his former campaign manager.

Meanwhile, a web of limited liability companies hid more than $356 million in spending from disclosure, records show.

Now, just two weeks out from the election, some campaign aides privately acknowledge they are facing difficult spending decisions at a time when Democratic nominee Joe Biden has flooded the airwaves with advertising. That has put Trump in the position of needing to do more of his signature rallies as a substitute during the coronavirus pandemic while relying on an unproven theory that he can turn out supporters who are infrequent voters at historic levels.

"They spent their money on unnecessary overhead, lifestyles-of-the-rich-and-famous activity by the campaign staff and vanity ads," said Mike Murphy, a veteran Republican consultant who advised John McCain and Jeb Bush and is an outspoken Trump critic. "You could literally have 10 monkeys with flamethrowers go after the money, and they wouldn't have burned through it as stupidly."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
28,308.79	3,443.12	11,516.49
=+113.37	+16.20	+37.61
0.40%	0.47%	0.33%

EXCHANGE RATES
In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4137	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7499	Russian Ruble	76.3048
British Pound	0.7705	Indian Rupee	73.1058	Singapore Dollar	1.3554
Canadian Dollar	1.3095	Japanese Yen	105.3260	South Korean Won	1111.85
Chinese Yuan	6.5630	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1090	Swiss Franc	0.9059
Euro	0.8440	New Zealand Dollar	1.5138	Taiwan Dollar	28.2789
		Philippine Peso	47.7821	Thailand Baht	31.2550

Nation

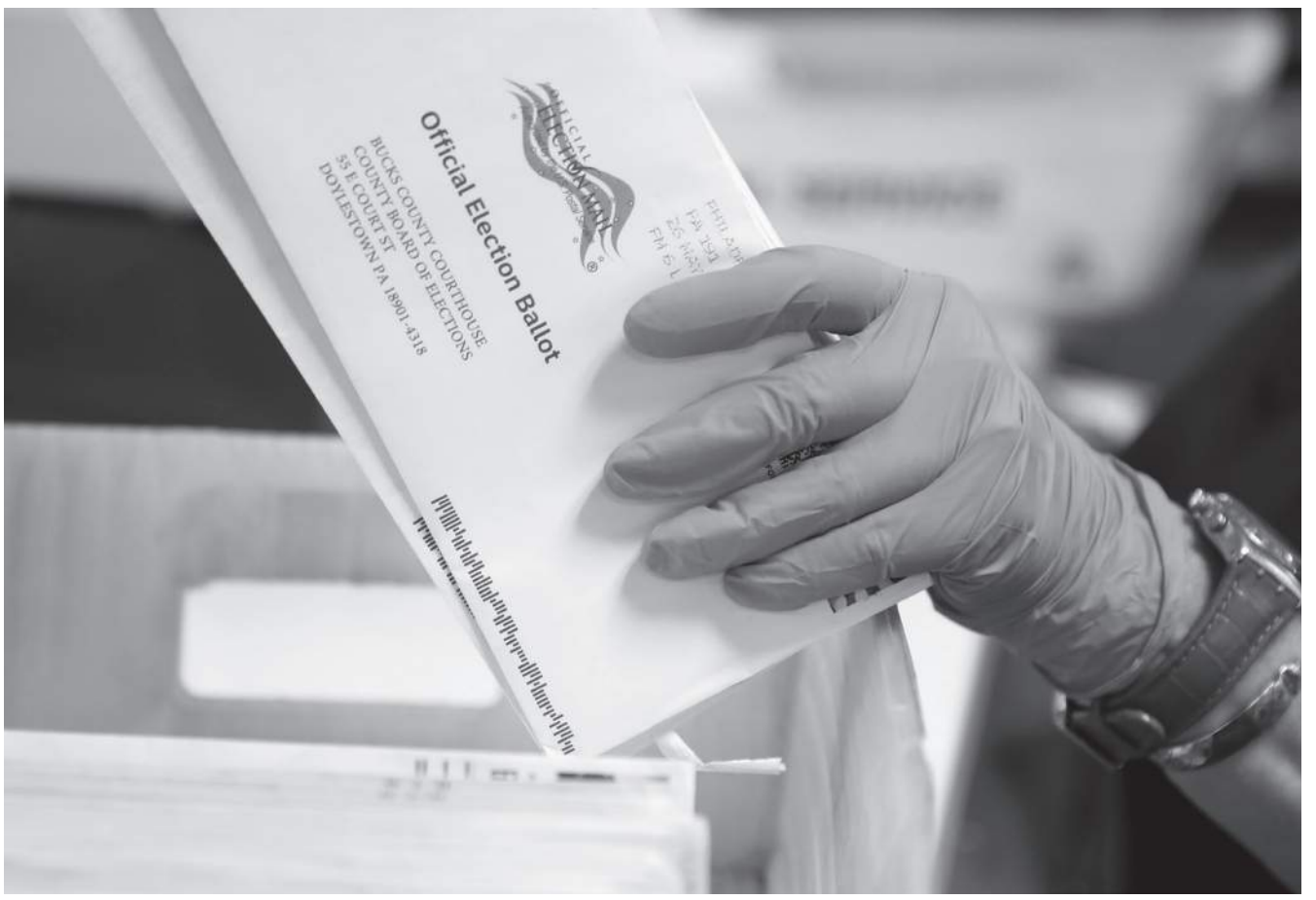
Democrats: Justices' 4-4 tie in election case ominous sign

WASHINGTON (AP)—With Amy Coney Barrett expected to join the Supreme Court as early as next week, the court's action in a Pennsylvania voting case has heightened fears among Democrats about the court being asked to decide a post-election dispute and with it, the winner of the White House.

The justices split 4-4 Monday over a Republican plea to undo a state court order and force elections officials to ignore absentee ballots received after Election Day, Nov. 3. The tie vote left the Pennsylvania court order in effect and allows mailed ballots to be counted if they are received by Nov. 6. Chief Justice John Roberts and his three liberal colleagues voted to leave the court order in place.

The four conservative members of the court who would have granted the GOP's request are likely to be joined soon by Barrett. That's a potential majority, even without Roberts, in any election-related dispute, whether from Pennsylvania or any other battleground state where mailed-in ballots or a recount fight could decide the winner.

"One more vote, provided by a hard-right, Trump-nominated justice, could be the difference between voting rights and voting suppression," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Tuesday.



AP

In this May 27, 2020 file photo, a worker processes mail-in ballots at the Bucks County Board of Elections office prior to the primary election in Doylestown, Pa.

President Donald Trump already has signaled one reason for Barrett's speedy nomination, just eight days after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, was to have her confirmed and installed on the court in time for any election lawsuit that might reach the justices.

The last time that happened was in 2000, when the court effectively decided the presidential election in favor of George W. Bush by a 5-4 vote.

If nothing else, the split vote Monday strongly suggested there is not likely to be the requisite five votes to upend a federal appeals court order that has blocked a six-day extension of the time to receive and count absentee ballots in Wisconsin. That case is pending at the Supreme Court.

The court's conservatives, Roberts included, have regularly sided with state officials who object when a federal court relaxes election rules, even if the changes arise from the coronavirus pandemic.

At the same time, the Supreme Court generally won't disturb state court rulings that are rooted in state law.

But civil rights lawyers and election law experts said the vote in the Pennsylvania case indicates at least four conservatives may be willing to look at state court election-related decisions in a way that calls to mind Bush v. Gore.

Pennsylvania Republicans relied in part on an opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas and two other conservative justices in *Bush v. Gore* to argue that the Supreme Court should get involved in the case because the state court had improperly taken powers given by the U.S. Constitution to state lawmakers when it comes to presidential elections. The court ruled for Bush on other grounds, that ballots were being handled differently across the state in violation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

"Based on Judge Barrett's record, there is every reason to believe that she would have been a fifth vote in favor of the Supreme Court overstepping its bounds and interfering with a non-federal issue that would have jeopardized voter access," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The group opposes Barrett's confirmation.

The justices on Monday provided no written explanation of their votes, so it is impossible to say exactly why Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Thomas would have granted the Republican request, or why the other half of the shorthanded court didn't.

The Supreme Court has never cited *Bush v. Gore* in an opinion of the court and in its unsigned majority opinion, the court wrote, "Our consideration is limited to the present circumstances."

But two lawyers who worked for Bush's cause in 2000, Roberts and Kavanaugh, now sit on the court. And they soon could be joined by a third, Barrett.

Trump tends to his electoral map, Biden prepping for debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is hopping from one must-win stop on the electoral map to the next in the leadup to a final presidential debate that may be his last, best chance to alter the trajectory of the 2020 campaign.

Democrat Joe Biden has been taking the opposite approach, holing up for debate prep in advance of Thursday's faceoff in Nashville. Trump, trailing in polls in most battleground states, stopped in Pennsylvania on Tuesday and was bound for North Carolina on Wednesday as he delivers what his campaign sees as his closing message.

"This is an election between a Trump super recovery and a Biden depression," the president said in Erie, Pennsylvania. "You will have a depression the likes of which you have never seen." He added: "If you want depression, doom and despair, vote for Sleepy Joe. And boredom."

But the president's pitch that he should lead the rebuilding of an economy ravaged by the pandemic has been overshadowed by a series of fights. In the last two days he has attacked the nation's leading infectious disease expert and a venerable TV newsmagazine while suggesting that the country was tired of talking about a virus that has killed more than 220,000 Americans.

Before leaving the White House for Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Trump taped part of an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that apparently ended acrimoniously. On Twitter, the president declared his interview with Lesley Stahl to be "FAKE and BIASED," and he threatened to release a White House edit of it before its Sunday airtime.

Also trailing in fundraising for campaign ads, Trump is increasingly relying on his signature campaign rallies to maximize turnout among his GOP base. His trip to Pennsylvania on Tuesday was one of what is expected to be several visits to the state in the next two weeks.

"If we win Pennsylvania, we win the whole thing," Trump said in Erie.

Erie County, which includes the aging industrial city in the state's northwest corner, went for President Barack Obama by 5 percentage points in 2012 but broke for Trump by 2 in 2016. That swing, fueled by Trump's success with white, working-class, non-college-educated voters, was replicated in small cities and towns and rural areas and helped him overcome Hillary Clinton's victories in the state's big cities.

But Trump will probably need to run up the score by more this time around as his prospects have slipped since 2016 in vote-rich suburban Philadelphia, where he underperformed by past Republican measures. This raises the stakes for his campaign's more aggressive outreach to new rural and small-town voters across the industrial north.

His aides worry that his opponent is uniquely situated to prevent that, as Biden not only hails from Scranton, but has built his political persona as a representative of the middle and working classes.

Report: Tax records show Trump tried to land China projects

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump spent a decade unsuccessfully pursuing projects in China, operating an office there during his first run for president and forging a partnership with a major government-controlled company, The New York Times reported Tuesday.

China is one of only three foreign nations — the others are Britain and Ireland — where Trump maintains a bank account, according to a Times analysis of the president's tax records. The foreign accounts do not show up on Trump's public financial disclosures, where he must list personal assets, because they are held under corporate names.

The Chinese account is controlled by Trump International Hotels Management LLC, which the tax records show paid $188,561 in taxes in China while pursuing licensing deals there from 2013 to 2015.

In response to questions from The Times, Alan Garten, a lawyer for the Trump Organization, said the company had "opened an account with a Chinese bank having offices in the United States in order to pay the local taxes" associated with efforts to do business there. He said the company had opened the account after establishing an office in China "to explore the potential for hotel deals in Asia."

"No deals, transactions or other business activities ever materialized and, since 2015, the office has remained inactive," Garten said. "Though the bank account remains open, it has never been used for any other purpose."

Garten would not identify the bank in China where the account is held.

China continues to be an issue in the 2020 presidential campaign, from the president's trade war to his barbs over the origin of the coronavirus pandemic. His campaign has tried to portray former Vice President Joe Biden as misreading the dangers posed by China's growing power. Trump has also sought to tar his opponent with overblown or unsubstantiated assertions about Hunter Biden's business dealings there while his father was in office.

As for the former vice president, his public financial disclosures, along with the income tax returns he voluntarily released, show no income or business dealings of his own in China. However, there is ample evidence of Trump's efforts to do business there.

As with Russia, where he explored hotel and tower projects in Moscow without success, Trump has long sought a licensing deal in China. His efforts go at least as far back as 2006, when he filed trademark applications in Hong Kong and the mainland. Many Chinese government approvals came after he became president.

Asia

FOR KILLINGS IN DRUG CRACKDOWN

Duterte: Hold me responsible

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has said he accepts responsibility for the thousands of killings committed during police operations in his crackdown on drugs, adding that he was even ready to go to jail.

President Rodrigo Duterte's televised remarks Monday night were typical of his bluster — and tempered by the fact that he has pulled his country out of the International Criminal Court, where a prosecutor is considering complaints related to the leader's bloody campaign.

The remarks were also a clear acknowledgement that Duterte could face a deluge of criminal charges. Nearly 6,000 killings of drug suspects have been reported by police since he took office in mid-2016, but rights watchdogs suspect the death toll is far larger.

"If there's killing there, I'm saying I'm the one ... you can hold me responsible for anything, any death that has occurred in the execution of the drug war," Duterte said.

"If you get killed, it's because I'm enraged by drugs," said the president known for his coarse and boastful rhetoric. "If I serve my country by going to jail, gladly."

He said, however, that drug killings that did not happen during police operations should not be blamed on him, alleging that those may have been committed by gangs.

AP

In this photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte attends a meeting at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines on Monday Oct. 19, 2020.

Duterte has made a crackdown on drugs a centerpiece of his presidency. At the height of the campaign — which has often targeted petty dealers and users along with a handful of the biggest druglords — images of suspects sprawled dead and bloodied in the streets were frequently broadcast in TV news reports and splashed on the front pages of newspapers. Tens of thousands of arrests in the initial years of the crackdown worsened congestion in what were already among the world's most overcrowded jails.

U.N. human rights experts and Western governments led by the United States have raised alarm over the killings, enraging Duterte, who once told former U.S. President Barack Obama to "go to hell."

There have been widespread suspicions that police engage in extrajudicial killings in the crackdown, allegations that they and Duterte deny. In 2018, a court convicted three police officers of murdering a 17-year-old student after witnesses and a security video disproved their claim that the suspect was shot after violently resisting, a common reason cited by police officers after drug suspects are killed.

At least two complaints for crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with Duterte's campaign are being examined by an ICC prosecutor, who will determine whether there is enough evidence to open a full-scale investigation.

39 Chinese are Thailand's 1st foreign tourists in 7 months

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's tourist industry took a modest step toward reviving its coronavirus-battered fortunes Tuesday by welcoming 39 visitors who flew in from Shanghai, the first such arrivals since regular travelers were banned almost seven months ago.

The visitors who arrived at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport are pioneers in a "Special Tourist Visa" program devised by Thai authorities to restore step by step a sector of the economy that welcomed almost 40 million foreign visitors last year and by some estimates accounts for more than 10% of the country's GDP.

China was a natural choice for restarting tourism. Thailand was one of the top overseas destinations for Chinese tourists in 2019, when they accounted for by far the largest number of visitors to Thailand by nationality. Just as crucial is that China has largely contained the virus domestically, in sharp contrast to other countries.

Thailand has had only a handful of domestic cases since June, and China's few local outbreaks have dissipated quickly after authorities took steps such as testing entire cities and quarantining communities with potential exposure.

Thailand's newest visitors cannot freely traipse around the country, however.

Under the program approved by the Thai Cabinet in September, foreign tourists who commit to a stay of at least 30 days are issued 90-day visas that can be renewed twice. After arriving, they must stay in government-approved quarantine at a hotel or hospital for 14 days and prove they have long-term accommodations. They must have special insurance policies, undergo pre-departure testing for the virus and download an official coronavirus-tracking application for use during their stay.

An operations manager at Suvarnabhumi Airport said it is ready for tourists with a testing system that gives the result within 90 minutes. He said arrivals have to go through three thermal scans as they make their way through the airport.

"We can assure everyone that all our measures are systematic and meet international standards," the manager, Kittipong Kittikachorn, told The Associated Press.

Members of the media were not allowed to meet with the arriving tourists.

At least two other flights from China are expected later this month, and Thailand's tourism ministry expects about 400 foreign visitors in early November. Future flights may land in destinations other than Bangkok, such as the southern resort island of Phuket.

World

IN VACCINE RESEARCH TRIAL

UK to infect healthy volunteers

LONDON (AP)—Danica Marcos wants to be infected with COVID-19.

While other people are wearing masks and staying home to avoid the disease, the 22-year-old Londoner has volunteered to contract the new coronavirus as part of a controversial study that hopes to speed development of a vaccine.

Marcos and other young volunteers say they want to take part to help bring an end to the pandemic after seeing the havoc it has wreaked. The grandparents of Marcos' best friend died early in the crisis, and as a volunteer for a homeless charity she has seen the struggles of those who have lost their jobs.

"So many people (are) struggling right now, and I want this pandemic to be over," Marcos told The Associated Press. "Every day that goes on, more cases are going on, more people are dying. And if this vaccine trial could mean that this period of trauma for the whole world will be over sooner, I want to help. I want to be a part of that."

Imperial College London and a group of researchers said Tuesday that they are preparing to infect 90 healthy young volunteers with the virus, becoming the first to announce plans to use the technique to study COVID-19 and potentially speed up development of a vaccine that could help end the pandemic.

This type of research, known as a human challenge study, is used infrequently because some question the ethics of infecting otherwise healthy individuals. But the British researchers say that risk is warranted because such studies have the potential to quickly identify the most effective vaccines and help control a disease that has killed more than 1.1 million people worldwide.

"Deliberately infecting volunteers with a known human pathogen is never undertaken lightly," said Professor Peter Openshaw, co-investigator on the study. "However, such studies are enormously informative about a disease, even one so well studied as COVID-19."

Human challenge studies have been used to develop vaccines for diseases including typhoid, cholera and malaria.

Imperial College said the study, involving volunteers aged 18 to 30, would be conducted in partnership with the government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and hVIVO, a company that has experience conducting challenge studies. The government plans to invest 33.6 million pounds ($43.4 million) in the research.

Governments around the world are funding efforts to develop a vaccine in hopes of ending the pandemic that has pummeled the global economy, putting millions of people out of work. Forty-six potential vaccines are already in human testing, with 11 of them in late-stage trials—several are expected to report results later this year or in early 2021.

The Imperial College partnership plans to begin work in January, with results expected by May. Before any research begins, the study must be approved by ethics committees and regulators.

Masked pope, faith leaders pray for peace and pandemic's end

ROME (AP)—A masked Pope Francis welcomed religious leaders to a socially-distanced interfaith peace prayer Tuesday, appealing for a unified international effort to work for peace and an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh and Hindu leaders stood for a minute of silence to pray for all the victims of COVID-19 and a universally available vaccine, as the sun set on the piazza overlooking the Roman Forum.

"The pandemic is reminding us that we are blood brothers and sisters," they said in a joint appeal issued at the end of the service.

For weeks, Francis has shunned facemasks in his public and private audiences despite a surge in COVID-19 cases across Italy and even inside Vatican City. But he donned one throughout the prayer service Tuesday, removing it only to speak. In a sense he was only following Italian law, since facemasks must now be worn indoors and out.

His invited guests followed suit, keeping their distance from one another and using individual pens to sign the joint appeal. The microphone was disinfected after each speaker finished delivering remarks about the need to work for an end to wars, hunger, terrorism—and the pandemic.

The event brought a host of religious leaders to the Eternal City despite virus-related travel restrictions: the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Patriarch Bartholomew I, was on hand from Istanbul, Turkey while other leaders came from continental Europe and beyond.

The service was organized by the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community, which each year organizes an interfaith peace prayer in the spirit of the first one of its kind, celebrated by St. John Paul II in Assisi in 1986. Onto the list of wars, conflicts and civil strife that have featured in past peace prayers, this year's edition was shaped from start to finish by the pandemic.

"May we immediately unite our efforts to contain the spread of the virus until there is a vaccine that is suitable and available to all," said the joint appeal.

Francis focused his remarks on the temptation to "save yourself," and think of your own problems and interests "as if nothing else mattered."

"It is a very human instinct, but wrong," Francis said.

"No people, no social group, can single-handedly achieve peace, prosperity, security and happiness. None," he said. "The lesson learned from the recent pandemic, if we wish to be honest, is the awareness that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person's problems are the problems of all.""

Francis has drawn criticism from even his ardent followers for shunning facemasks during his recent Wednesday general audiences. In Italy, the onetime European epicenter of the outbreak, coronavirus infections are surging after a summertime lull, with 10,874 new ones confirmed Tuesday and another 89 victims.

In the past week 11 Swiss Guards and a resident of the hotel where Francis lives have tested positive. At 83 and with part of a lung removed when he was in his 20s due to illness, the pope would be at high-risk for COVID-19 complications.

Environment

No [cigarette] butts, no excuses...

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

At the Bird Island Lookout in Marpi, on the left side of the stairs, next to a colorful trash bin, is a designated smoking area with a disposal bin for cigarette butts. Clearly printed on the signage is a clipart of a cigarette, and the text "Pls dispose properly."

In the bin, a creatively recycled blue mineral water bottle cut in half, sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Adventure, and Parks and Recreation, were about 35 cigarette butts, tucked in safe, with less of a chance to get to the shores.

At last month's International Coastal Cleanup, cigarette butts were the most collected trash here in the CNMI, as well as in the rest of the United States. Almost 10,000 cigarette butts were collectively picked up all over the shores of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

In a San Diego State University-Graduate School of Public Health study on Tobacco Product Waste, agricultural chemicals (pesticides) have been found to be present in cigarette smokes, as well as other toxic compounds, which could be retained by filters and tobacco remnants in discarded cigarette butts.

Discarded filters may retain many of the compounds, which may leach into the environment and transferred to aquatic organisms, and could bioaccumulate in the human food chain.

What does this mean? Basically, toxic compounds from cigarettes end up in the waters, sink and settle in the sediment, get eaten by small aquatic creatures which are then eaten by small fish, which are eaten by medium-sized fish, which are then eaten by large fish. These larger, predator, longer-living fish are likely to have more chemicals in their bodies.

And who eats these large fish? We do.

All around the world, over 4 million cigarette butts were collected during the International Cleanup—that is just one day of collecting wastes. Imagine how much more cigarette butts are out there, potentially poisoning our shores, waiting to be collected.

Can't find a bin? Pocket the butt

While there are bills pending right now at the CNMI Legislature on the phase out of single-use plastics (9th most collected waste in the CNMI) and styrofoam packaging (10th most collected trash within the United States), there is none on the management and disposal specifically for cigarette butts.

Environmental specialist Marlyn C. Naputi, of the Toxic Waste Management Branch of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, however, emphasizes that while unfortunately, there is no law yet made specifically for cigarette butts, the Litter Control Act of 1989 pretty much applies to any disposal items of any nature, including cigarette butts.

"Of course, if I can tell everyone to stop smoking, I would, but obviously, we can't do that… People just have to be responsible and more disciplined when it comes to littering. I know a few people who actually pocket their cigarette butts if they can't locate a trash bin when they are done smoking, and I don't see a problem with that."

CNMI ICC coordinator Colleen Flores, of BECQ's Division of Coastal Resources Management, echoes the call for everyone to be responsible, as well as for a change in our ways, noting that the problem with cigarette butts is that although they are small, there are way too many of them.

Small but terrible not just for the environment, but for everyone's health as well, behavioral change is needed to tackle this problem.

"Get a reusable pocket-sized ashtray (yes, that's a thing!), properly dispose of your cigarette butts in nearby trash cans, or speak up when you see someone flicking their cigarette butts in our environment," Flores advices.

What about other trash?

Of the 10 most-collected trash during the coastal cleanup, aside from cigarette butts, seven are plastic: bottle caps, food wrappers, bottles, cutlery, straws and stirrers, grocery bags, and other plastic bags; and two are metal or tin: beverage cans and metal bottle caps.

According to BECQ, plastic bottles (including plastic caps) and beverage cans are recyclable. This means they can be recycled in recycling facilities on island, one of which is even located at the transfer station.

"Always look for the Recycle symbol… Please keep in mind that your recyclables must be clean and dry before dropping them off. If you are unsure about your recyclables being accepted, you can always call the respected recycling facility and inquire with them first before heading down," Naputi added.

Recyclables can be dropped off at the recycling facilities. Naputi, however, cautions everyone to verify first with the respected facility if they will accept your recyclables. "Some will accept aluminum cans and plastic bottles but might not accept metal or they might only accept scrap metal but not plastic bottles etc."

BECQ currently lists seven (7) permitted recycling centers in the CNMI on their website, some of which offer a buyback program for certain recyclables. The recycling centers are Rising Star/Man Joint Venture (paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, steel and metal), Art Man Corporation (cardboard, aluminum, various metals), and Ericco Ent. (aluminum and steel cans, and various metals).

Triple Star (aluminum, various metals, automative lead-acid batteries, electronics), FSM Recycling (aluminum, lead-acid battery, various metals, junk vehicles and car parts), Atkins Microl Toyota (used lead-acid batteries), and Hans Corp. (used lead-acid batteries) are also included.

"As for the other trash items listed on the Top 10, they are unfortunately not recyclable... For other non-recyclables, reduction at source is the best way to go. If you can find ways to use less plastic, especially single-use plastic, that would make a difference."

To reduce the amount of plastic we use on a daily basis, BECQ suggests switching out plastic straws, bags, and cutlery for reusable ones, bringing reusable bags for grocery shopping, or bringing your own reusable cup/flask to your favorite coffee/tea spot.

DCRM also has been implementing the Plastic-Free Marianas program, for businesses, and for those in the community who are in need of guidance on how to do away with single-use plastics at home and/or work.

"All in all, the main message we can give out to the public is to try and reduce your waste by looking for alternatives to plastics and wherever you go, please dispose of your trash properly in a public trash bin, and if you can't find a trash bin near you, take your trash home with you… Anywhere you go, always collect your trash."

BY THE NUMBERS

CNMI 2020 International Coastal Cleanup

Last Sept. 19, in celebration of the 2020 International Coastal Cleanup Day, 975 volunteers cleaned up 76 locations, and collected 9,144 lbs of trash! Saipan had 750 volunteers who collected 7,040 lbs of trash, Tinian had 59 volunteers who collected 887 lbs of trash, and Rota had 166 volunteers who collected 1,217 lbs of trash!

10 Most Collected Debris during the 2020 ICC

Cigarette Butts	9,833
Plastic Bottle Caps	5,576
Beverage Cans	2,882
Food Wrappers	2,388
Plastic Bottles	1,958
Metal Bottle Caps	1,547
Plastic Cutlery	1,339
Straws/Stirrers	1,235
Other Plastic Bags	984
Plastic Grocery Bags	834

Tiny wastes collected (less than 2.5cm)

Remnants of what used to be larger debris

Tiny Foam Pieces	705
Tiny Glass Pieces	906
Microplastics	26,509

Foam, glass, and plastic never fully biodegrades and instead breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces that, occasionally, find its way onto our shores.

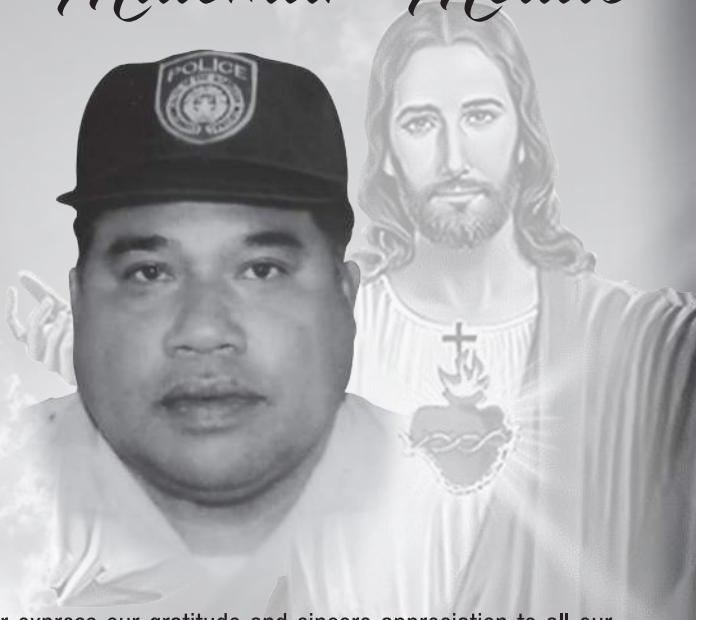
Source: BECQ-DCRM

IVA MAURIN

Cigarette butt disposal bin at the designated smoking area at the Bird Island Lookout in Marpi. Cigarette butts, the top most collected wastes in the CNMI during this year's International Coastal Cleanup day celebration, pose a threat in the Marianas marine life.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†Jesus Mulemar Mettao



No words could ever express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our family and friends, near and far, for the love and support you have shown us after the passing of our beloved father, grand, and great grandfather, †Jesus Mulemar Mettao. Your love, prayers, and support have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to ease our pain and revert our sense of loss to rejoice that our beloved †Jesus now rests in the hands of our Lord and Savior. Each day is a challenge, but also a blessing, and with your prayers and God's help, we will get through this difficult time. Know that the kindness and compassion you've given to our family will be forever remembered. God bless you all!

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow

Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

Papers shed light on early years of 'Old Ironsides,' Navy

By MARK PRATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S.S. Constitution Museum has acquired more than 150 documents, including correspondence from President George Washington's secretary of war and the leader of the Haitian Revolution, that shed light on the warship's early years and the young United States' first international conflict.

The collection acquired at auction had been in private hands for more than 225 years and will be unveiled during a Facebook Live celebration of the ship's 223rd birthday Wednesday.

It is the largest acquisition the Boston-based U.S.S. Constitution Museum has made in nearly a decade.

"I have been looking for collections for this museum for over 30 years and have never seen anything like it," museum President and CEO Anne Grimes Rand said in a statement. "The U.S.S. Constitution Museum is actively pursuing its mission in tough times by acquiring these documents that shed light on previously unknown aspects of the construction, outfitting, and first movements of U.S.S. Constitution."

The cost of the documents was not disclosed, but they were paid for by a group of museum supporters known as the Commodores, she said.

"We rallied them and we were able to bid aggressively and we landed the collection," she said.

The museum is the nonprofit that preserves the history of the ship known as Old Ironsides, which is still an active-duty U.S. Navy vessel berthed in the city's Charlestown neighborhood.

The U.S.S Constitution is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat. It was undefeated in battle and earned its nickname during the War of 1812, when British cannonballs bounced off its wooden hull.

The papers cover several topics, including the construction of the U.S. Navy's first six frigates, which include the Constitution, and strategic plans for the undeclared Quasi-War with France from 1798 until 1800.

The collection belonged to Capt. James Sever, first commander of U.S.S. Congress, another frigate constructed at the same time as Constitution. It had been in his family ever since.

Sever supervised construction of Congress and was deployed with the ship to the Caribbean to protect U.S. merchant ships from French privateers. Old Ironsides served alongside Congress in the conflict.

The collection includes handwritten correspondence and papers from the Constitution's commander, Capt. Silas Talbot; Henry Knox, secretary of war under Washington, who oversaw the appropriations for the construction of the Constitution and its sister frigates; and Toussaint Louverture, the formerly enslaved leader of the Haitian Revolution, who corresponded with U.S. Navy commanders about U.S. support of his government.

Bill Cosby, now 83, grins in newly released prison mug shot

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A newly released prison mug shot shows Bill Cosby smiling with a disposable mask hanging off his face.

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections recently updated Cosby's mug shot, something routinely done to document changes to inmates' appearance as they age. Cosby's new photo was taken Sept. 4.

Later in the evening, a blurry picture was tweeted from Cosby's verified account showing him using what appeared to be a prison telephone, pulling a mask away from his chin as he smiled.

It was accompanied by text that said: "This photo was taken by his publicist, Andrew Wyatt, during his first virtual video conference call with Mr. Cosby last week. We are posting this to reassure his family and supporters that he is doing ok during this pandemic."

Cosby, 83, was convicted of felony sex assault and is serving a three- to 10-year prison term. An appeals court had upheld his conviction, but the Pennsylvania Supreme Court agreed this year to review two key issues in the case. The appeal is scheduled to be heard Dec. 1.

AP
This Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2020, inmate photo provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections shows Bill Cosby.

Cosby, a once-beloved comedian long known as "America's Dad," became the first celebrity convicted of sexual misconduct in the #MeToo era when he was convicted of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home near Philadelphia in 2004.

Duke and Duchess of Sussex convene session on digital world

NEW YORK (AP)—Creating online communities free of danger and misinformation is crucial in building a better world, the Duchess of Sussex told an online audience Tuesday during a special Time100 Talks episode she curated with her husband, Prince Harry.

"This isn't just a tech problem. This isn't solely a mental health or emotional well-being problem. This is a human problem. And what's happening to all of us online is affecting us deeply offline," Meghan said in opening the two-hour session that gathered academics, experts in misinformation, advocates for teens and the marginalized, journalists and others.

Since the start of 2020, after the two left the U.K., they've been spending quality time with son Archie at their California home and also educating themselves on issues swirling in the digital space. They've made new friends among those working to make that space better, both said.

"What our job is, especially throughout these conversations, is to get people to listen to the experts and for them to explain how what's happening in the online world is affecting the world," Harry said. "It is not restricted to certain platforms or certain social media conversations. This is a global crisis, a global crisis of hate, a global crisis of misinformation and a global health crisis."

He called the media's role vital in informing and changing the world overall but said: "There's a huge amount of trust that we all put into media and digital platforms that sometimes is undermined."

Altered photo shows Ice Cube, 50 Cent in 'Trump 2020' hats

By BEATRICE DUPUY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

An altered photo of rappers Ice Cube and 50 Cent in hats that appear to show support for President Donald Trump circulated widely on social media Tuesday, fueled in part by a tweet by Eric Trump.

"Two great, courageous Americans," Trump's son tweeted. He removed the tweet with a photo of the two rappers in hats saying "Trump 2020" after being called out by Ice Cube on Twitter.

In the original photo, both entertainers were wearing baseball caps with sports logos. Ice Cube's hat says "Big3," a reference to a 3-on-3 basketball league he cofounded, and 50 Cent wears one with the New York Yankees logo. Ice Cube shared the original photo on his Twitter account on July 6 to send a birthday message to 50 Cent.

"Happy birthday to the homie @50cent," he tweeted with the photo.

The manipulated image was shared thousands of times on Twitter and Facebook since it began gaining attention on Monday.

"This is the start of a really bad week for the Democrats…," one Twitter user said on a post with the altered photo that had more than 8,000 shares Monday.

Ice Cube, whose real name is O'Shea Jackson, has come under fire for appearing to work with the Trump administration on his "Contract with Black Americans," which calls for a new dynamic for how our country is run to address racial issues. In a recent interview with CNN, he said both the Trump campaign and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's campaign reached out to him about his contract.

"One campaign said 'we love what you have but let's really dig into it after the election,' and one campaign said we love what you have, 'do you mind talking to us about it and that's what I did," he said on CNN. "The Trump campaign came to me and asked me to explain to them some of the Contract with Black America."

Changing a diaper causes family friction at baptism

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law "Brenda" often takes it upon herself to change a baby's diaper during social gatherings with family. She never bothers to ask the baby's parents if it's OK to do this, and they never solicit her help. For years, I found it a bit strange, but never said anything to Brenda or another family member.

Some time ago, my in-laws and immediate family were at my son's baptismal party. Several babies from my wife's side as well as my own were there. My wife's relatives aren't well-acquainted with mine. Before our wedding, neither of our families had ever met the other.

During the festivities, my wife's niece—who was still in diapers—appeared to have a full load in her back side. Her parents were in another room. Without informing them of the issue or asking permission, Brenda took it upon herself to change the diaper. The child's mother walked into the room and began to loudly scold Brenda for doing it without her consent. You could see the mother was upset and scared, since she did not know Brenda at all.

After the party ended, my family couldn't understand why the child's mother became so upset. They thought she was some kind of nut for reacting the way she did. I fully understand why the mother became upset. Given the fact that she doesn't know Brenda, and that one must clean the baby's private parts when changing a diaper, I don't understand why Brenda would take this upon herself. What's your opinion, Abby?

STRANGE IN THE EAST

DEAR STRANGE: What your sister-in-law did may have been fine with her own family, but for her to have changed the diaper of a child whose parents she didn't know well (and from whom she didn't have permission!) was inappropriate. I don't fault the mother for being upset. Rather than blame her for reacting the way she did, it's time someone explains boundaries to Miss Brenda.

DEAR ABBY: Being bored due to the quarantine, I signed up to Classmates.com to look for old friends. Moments later I received a response from a male classmate. We graduated the same year. I really don't remember him, although he said he remembered me. Anyway, we started texting and exchanging graduation pictures. He still lives in our hometown; I don't. We have started talking almost every day.

My problem is, we have so many things in common, from family to same make of car and insurance company, I have started getting a creepy feeling. It freaked me out to the point that I blocked him.

He was always respectful, but for us to have so much in common made my stomach lurch. Do you think this is possible? Or is there a chance he could be stalking me?

FREAKED OUT

DEAR FREAKED: It could be coincidental that you have so much in common, but I would never advise anyone who had a gut feeling that something wasn't right to ignore it. Listen to your intuition and you will never go wrong.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

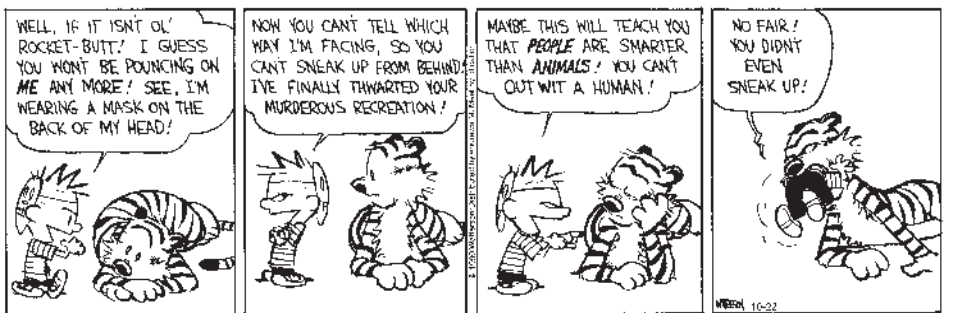
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

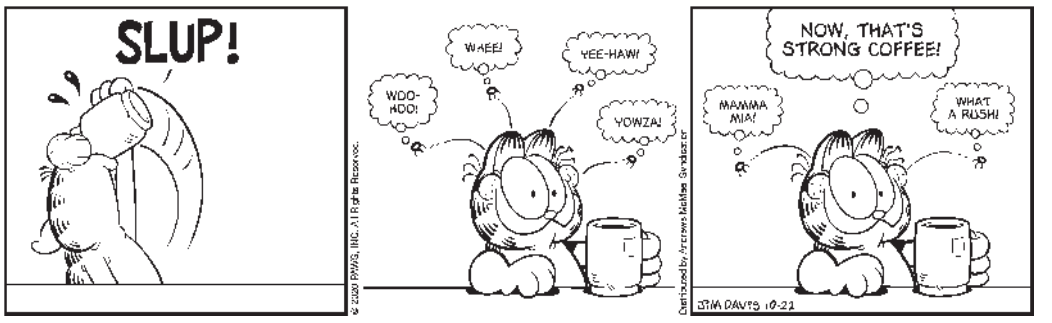
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, IF IT ISN'T OL' ROCKET-BUTT! I GUESS YOU WON'T BE POUNCING ON ME ANY MORE! SEE, I'M WEARING A MASK ON THE BACK OF MY HEAD!
NOW YOU CAN'T TELL WHICH WAY I'M FACING, SO YOU CAN'T SNEAK UP FROM BEHIND! I'VE FINALLY THWARTED YOUR MURDEROUS RECREATION!
MAYBE THIS WILL TEACH YOU THAT PEOPLE ARE SMARTER THAN ANIMALS! YOU CAN'T OUT WIT A HUMAN!
NO FAIR! YOU DIDN'T EVEN SNEAK UP!

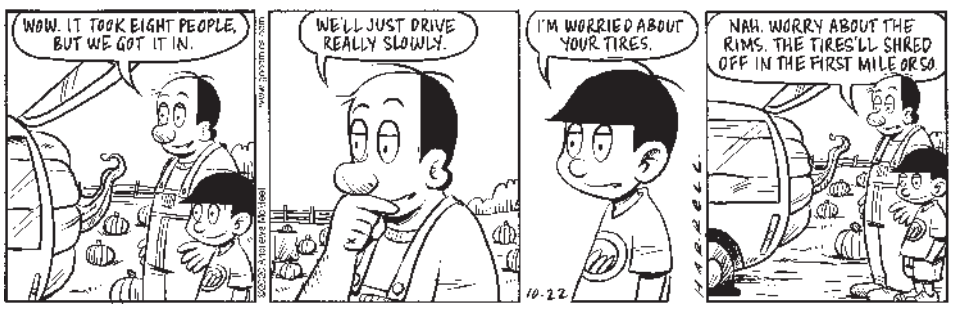
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW. IT TOOK EIGHT PEOPLE, BUT WE GOT IT IN.
WE'LL JUST DRIVE REALLY SLOWLY.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR TIRES.
NAH. WORRY ABOUT THE RIMS. THE TIRES'LL SHRED OFF IN THE FIRST MILE OR SO
10-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SAYS EVERY 4 HOURS A NEW MCDONALD'S OPENS AROUND THE WORLD
WE SHOULD BUY A FRANCHISE. THERE'S A SANDWICH I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE ON THEIR MENU, AND I'M SURE IT'LL BE A HIT.
WHICH IS?
MCROADKILL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 News anchor Smith of CNBC
5 Crow's cry
8 Jog
12 Jeans-maker Strauss
13 Flamenco cry
14 Actor's quest
15 Calif. neighbor
16 Quick swim
17 Tosses in
18 French novelist
20 Cease-fires
22 In the manner of
23 Docs' org.
24 Morrison and Croce
27 Frat fete
32 Tic-tac-toe win
33 Rock's Brian
34 Before
35 Supported
38 Kin of IMHO
39 — -cone
40 Hooting bird
42 Dress spangle
45 Engaged in family fights
49 Hosp. areas
50 "That hurts!"
52 "Fly — the Moon"
53 Scottish hillside
54 Zsa Zsa's sister
55 Actor McGregor
56 Beer, slangily
57 Sailor
58 Bygone fliers

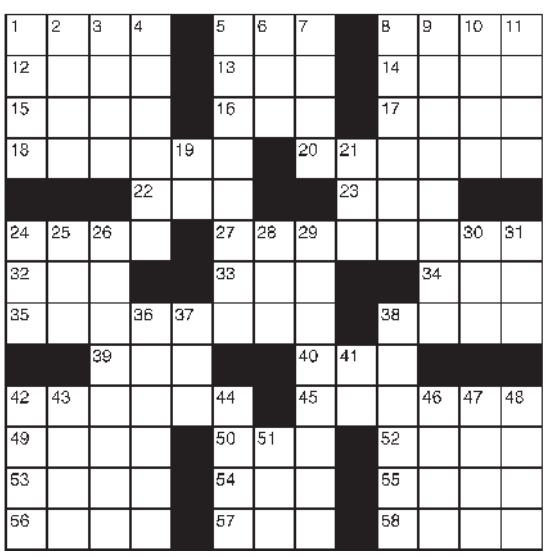
DOWN

1 Thick chunk
2 Wife of Zeus
3 Satan's forte
4 Pies with toppings
5 New England seafood treats
6 "The Greatest"
7 Sobbed
8 Psychological injury
9 Baseball player born in Panama
10 Shoppe description
11 Dick Tracy's love
19 Pacino of "Serpico"
21 Knock
24 Average guy
25 Charged bit
26 Trio on '70s TV, with "The"
28 Compass dir.
29 Mars, e.g.
30 Numerical prefix
31 Evergreen type
36 Burdens
37 Marseilles monarch
38 Water park rides
41 You and I
42 Bloodline sharers
43 Beige
44 Russian refusal
46 Morning droplets
47 Coup d' —
48 Puts on
51 Eggs

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	O	W	N		M	A	C		E	D	G	E
O	P	I	E		O	R	L		L	E	N	A
C	E	L	I	N	I	T	E		A	I	A	R
A	L	I	G	N			O	C	T	E	T	S
			H	E	A	P		L	E	N		
B	O	D	S		M	A	G	I		D	A	Y
A	U	E		_	A	P	U	P		E	V	E
A	R	F		S	T	A	R		E	R		N
		A	S	A		_	U	A	U			
S	H	U	N	T	S			T	R	A		T
H	O	L	E		D	E	F	L	E	C	T	S
A	S	I	A		A	_	E		K	E	I	O
C	E	S	K		K	I	D		A	D	O	S

Yesterday's answer 10-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blanca Suarez, 32; Glen Powell, 32; Matt Dallas, 38; Judge Judy Sheindlin, 78.

Happy Birthday: Handle with care. Ease into whatever changes you want to pursue this year. Plan your actions with precision, intelligence and guidelines to ensure you make decisions that bring high returns. There is a shift taking place, and you want to be on the right side of the fault line as situations occur and developments unfold. Hedge your bets. Your numbers are 7, 13, 18, 26, 33, 41, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't take a risk. Acting in haste will lead to a loss. Anger will not help you maintain stability. Bide your time, and do your best to get along with everyone until you have a clear-cut plan in place. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* What are you waiting for? Look, see and do before the window of opportunity closes. A change will lift your spirits and encourage you to use your skills proficiently. A partnership looks promising and will improve your chance of a better future. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Someone will take advantage of your enthusiasm if you are too eager to please. If you want to burn energy, do something that will result in a healthier physique. Don't try to buy someone's attention or love. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your imagination, and turn your dream into a reality. Concentrate on getting ahead by using your skills or the services you enjoy doing most. Don't neglect a meaningful relationship. A kind gesture will eliminate a complaint. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Uncertainty will prevail. Don't jump from one thing to another. Finish what you start, and live up to your promises. Use your energy wisely, and you will encourage others to follow your lead instead of being drawn into someone's plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set your sights on what you want. It's time for a change. Live life your way. Considering a move, picking up a new skill or license to practice something you enjoy, or spending more time with someone you love is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Refuse to let demanding people interfere with your productivity. Make a to-do list that begins with what's most important to you. Resentment will surface if you allow someone to take advantage of you. Physical activity will relieve stress. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change of heart will push you in an exciting direction. Listen, learn, research and address possibilities that can play out in your favor. An unusual turn of events will take place if you reconnect with someone from your past. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A change to how you deal with money matters will influence your future. Someone will try to talk you into something that isn't in your best interest. Take care of pending problems yourself to avoid mistakes and misrepresentation. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Work with the people who share your goals, and it will be easier to reach your objective. An unusual lifestyle change will pique your interest. Romance is in the stars, and shared expenses will help you achieve a higher standard of living. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your energy into personal gain. Look over documents, and update what's outdated. Keep up with the times and trends that will help you avoid a loss or missing out on a deal that could save you money. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A change of plans should include people you have worked with in the past. There are deals to be made and financial gains that will help you raise your game and reach your goal. Romance will improve your relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, active and enthusiastic. You are energetic and unpredictable. *Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	2		9			8	
8			3			1		5
6							7	
	3		2					
7								6
				8			1	
	6							7
1		8			4			3
	5			7		9	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	2	3	5	1	4	7	6	8
1	8	4	9	7	6	2	5	3
7	6	5	2	8	3	1	9	4
6	3	1	8	2	5	4	7	9
5	7	2	4	6	9	8	3	1
8	4	9	1	3	7	5	2	6
4	9	7	6	5	8	3	1	2
3	1	8	7	9	2	6	4	5
2	5	6	3	4	1	9	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WHERE IS MY PACKAGE? **Solution: 8 letters**

T	E	N	O	H	P	S	E	X	O	B	B	A	Y	S
P	S	T	N	U	H	S	U	T	A	T	S	F	R	S
I	I	E	N	I	A	S	S	E	R	P	X	E	E	E
E	S	C	P	C	A	R	R	I	E	R	K	D	V	R
C	H	P	K	A	C	C	E	S	S	C	R	E	I	G
E	E	O	E	U	R	G	A	R	A	G	E	R	L	O
R	R	N	L	T	P	A	C	R	Ⓣ	T	P	A	E	R
O	E	L	S	D	S	A	T	U	Ⓢ	R	T	L	D	P
T	T	I	L	E	M	E	N	E	Ⓞ	B	R	E	A	O
A	S	N	D	A	G	I	R	C	Ⓛ	E	E	C	X	E
L	I	E	Z	A	T	A	E	A	D	M	K	R	F	T
O	N	O	K	E	E	S	M	R	A	E	E	A	B	L
R	N	C	D	N	S	E	O	I	T	S	S	P	A	A
U	A	L	E	R	T	S	L	P	O	S	T	A	G	E
P	C	O	N	F	I	R	M	A	T	I	O	N	S	S

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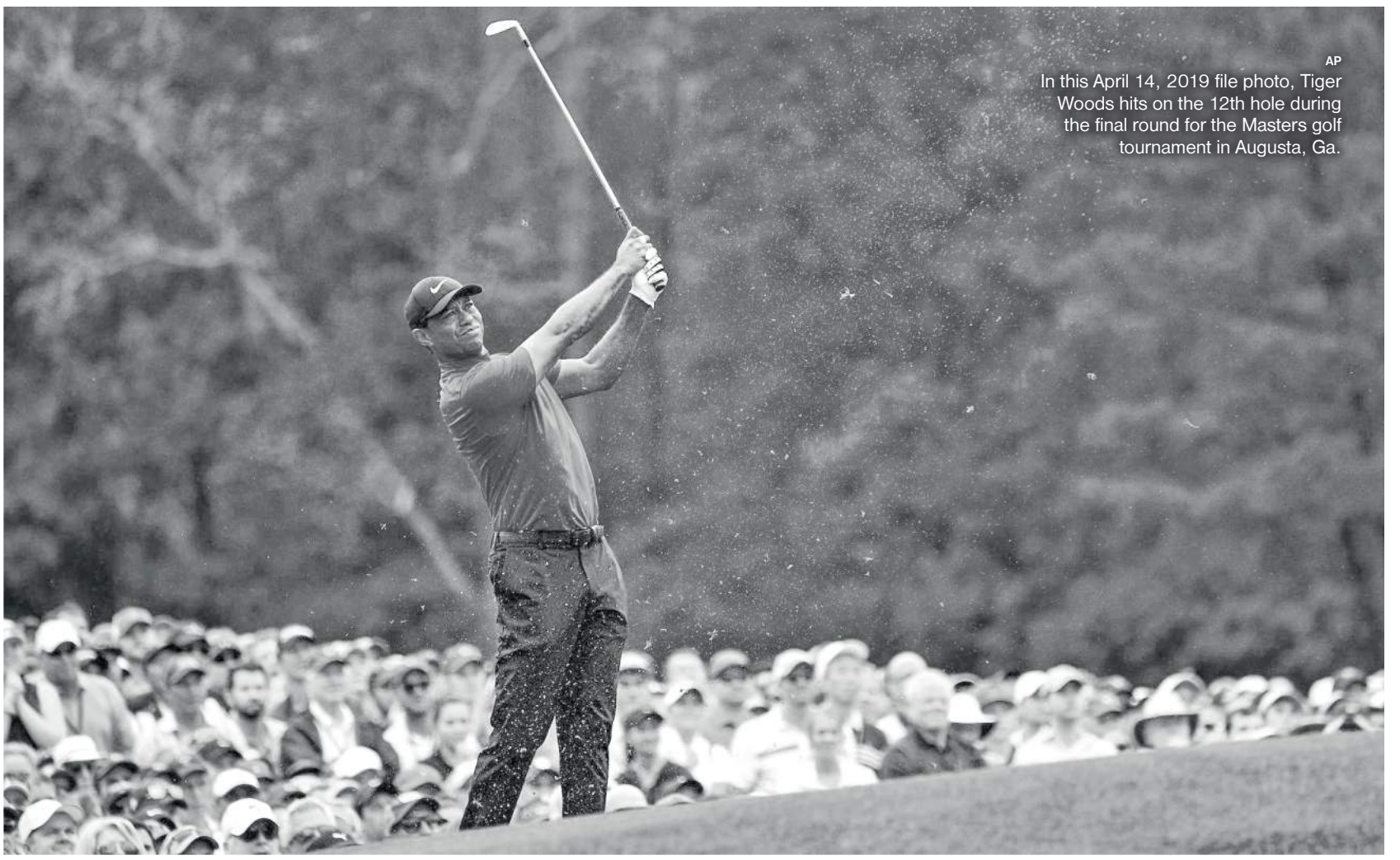
Access. Alerts. Amazon. Bags. Blame. Boxes. Cannister. Carrier. Case. Confirmation. Delivery. Email. Express. Federal. Garage. Hold. Hunt. Images. Lost. Nearest. Online. Order. Package. Packet. Parcel. Phone. Pickup. Postage. Postal. Process. Progress. Punch. Purolator. Receipt. Safe. Seal. Separate. Shipper. Status. Steps. Text. Tracker. United

Yesterday's Answer: Helplessly

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Woods faces most challenging event at Masters



AP
In this April 14, 2019 file photo, Tiger Woods hits on the 12th hole during the final round for the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga.

CALIFORNIA—Tiger Woods is less than a month away from his 23rd start at the Masters which, for a monsoon of reasons, may prove to be his most challenging trip down Magnolia Lane.

He's the defending champion. He's won five green jackets. He's still the most intimidating player in the game when he's coming downhill at Augusta National, even at 44 years old. And, of course, he's Woods.

Under normal circumstances, all those things would weigh heavily in Woods' favor, but it's painfully obvious to all that these are not normal circumstances.

In April, when the azaleas are ablaze and the pollen thick, Tiger is a finetuned machine, ready for anything following more than two decades of trial and very little error. In the spring, he begins tooling his game during the Florida swing, working on shots, envisioning drives, dialing in his short game. By the time the year's first major arrives every box has been checked.

This year, well, it's 2020.

After missing the cut at last month's U.S. Open, Woods took four months off, worked on his game and body and returns to action this week at the Zozo Championship, where he's defending his first title on the PGA Tour since 2014. On Tuesday he offered a strangely uncertain answer when asked his "blueprint" for this year's Masters.

"I think my plan is just to play and practice. I don't know if I'm going to play Houston [Open] or not. I'm not playing next week, and we'll see how this week goes and make a decision from there," he said.

Woods has never played the Houston Open. He's never played the week before the Masters. He's never really been one to "see how this week goes." That's not a plan, it's a rough outline, and it's not Woods.

To Woods' credit he doesn't have much of a choice.

When the pandemic winds blew the Tour's schedule into chaos and two majors into the fall, the players rolled with it. If playing the Masters in November without patrons is the only way, then that's what they will do. For Woods, that meant reworking his routine and coming up with a new plan.

Things didn't play out well at Winged Foot, where he missed the cut with rounds of 73-77, and Woodshas played just 18 rounds of Tour golf in the last 246 days, the b uct of pandemic, poor play and personal preference. It all makes this week's Zozo Championship, with apologies to the fans in Houston, his likely last start before the Masters.

"It's not normally this time of year. It's not normally played this way, the configuration of events. We're not in a Florida swing. This is all different," he said. "This whole year's been different for all of us. The fact that the Masters will be held in November, it's unprecedented, never been one before. I can't simulate the normal ramp-up that I normally have."

A new spot on the calendar isn't the only reason why this Masters will be, arguably, the most challenging for Woods. The consensus among those who have played Augusta National in November is that the course will play much longer than it does in the spring. The wind normally comes from the north that time of year and temperatures can plummet into the low-40s, which aren't ideal conditions for a 40-something with multiple back surgeries.

Woods recalled playing Augusta National in the fall of 2001, following some dramatic changes to the iconic course.

"It's been cold, ball doesn't go very far," he said. "In the fall of '01, we went up there and it was driver, 3-wood into 1; 18 was a driver, 3-wood. You know, it's so different. If you're able to get the north wind that time of year, it can be awfully difficult and long and very different than what we normally play in April."

But the biggest challenge for Woods may have nothing to do with the conditions or his uprooted schedule. Since the Tour's restart in June, Woods, along with a few other players, have talked of how difficult it is to focus during rounds without fans at events and nowhere will that be more evident than at the Masters, a tournament defined by Sunday roars.

"There's no other place like it. It echoes there, it travels," he said.

Pacers tab Raptors assistant Bjorkgren as coach

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana wanted its next coach to take the franchise in a new direction.

The Pacers were seeking someone who could communicate with today's players, who was open to a new offensive philosophy and who could win some postseason games.

On Tuesday, president of basketball operations Kevin Pritchard found his man in Toronto assistant Nate Bjorkgren.

"Nate is the right coach for us at the right time," Pritchard said in a statement released by the team. "He comes from a winning background, has experienced championship success, is innovative and his communication skills along with his positivity are tremendous."

Terms were not immediately available though several reports said the 45-year-old Bjorkgren agreed to a multi-year deal.

He comes to Indiana after spending two seasons as an assistant on Nick Nurse's staff in Toronto. There, Bjorkgren helped the Raptors capture their first NBA championship in 2018-19 and was part of a team that earned the Eastern Conference's No. 2 seed each of the past two seasons.

He also won a G-League title while working for Nurse in 2010-11 with the Iowa Energy.

And though this will be Bjorkgren's first head coaching job in the NBA, he went 126-74 in four seasons as a G-League head coach with the Dakota Wizards, Santa Cruz Warriors, Energy and Bakersfield Jam.

Bjorkgren is expected to be introduced Wednesday on a Zoom call.

"This is something I have prepared for during my career," Bjorkgren said in a statement, thanking those involved in the selection process. "I also want to thank Nick Nurse for giving me my first professional coaching job 14 years ago. I'm looking forward to working with this great team to achieve our goal as NBA champions."

Just winning some postseason games would be a start.

Despite making five straight playoff appearances, the Pacers haven't won a series since defeating Washington 4-2 in the 2014 Eastern Conference semifinals. Since then, Indy is 8-20 in the playoffs and has endured three first-round sweeps the past four seasons—the franchise's only four-game sweeps since joining the NBA in 1976.

Postseason losses aren't the only potential obstacle facing Indiana.

Two-time All-Star Victor Oladipo returned in January after missing 12 months while rehabbing from a torn quad tendon in his right knee. Following the season's stoppage and restart, Oladipo —worried about re-injuring his knee— announced he wouldn't return to the court in Florida before changing his mind.

Since the Pacers' elimination in August, speculation has centered on Oladipo's future and whether he would remain in Indianapolis if he becomes a free agent after next season. If not, some believe he could be dealt, potentially leading to a major roster overhaul.

Bjorkgren replaces Nate McMillan, who was fired Aug. 26 just two weeks after agreeing to a contract extension through the 2021-22 season. In four seasons with Indiana, McMillan went 183-136, producing the fourth-highest victory total in franchise history. But he was just 3-16 in the postseason.

Bjorkgren, an Iowa native who played college basketball at South Dakota, left the G-League in 2015 to join the Phoenix as player development coordinator. He spent two seasons on the Suns staff before rejoining Nurse in Toronto.

Lakers salary cap

Los Angeles opened an additional $13.81 million of cap space last offseason by stretching Luol Deng.

The Lakers traded for Anthony Davis ($5,693,682 more expensive last season than the players dealt for him). They also signed Danny Green ($14,634,147 starting salary), Kentavious Caldwell-Pope ($8,089,282), Avery Bradley ($4,767,000), JaVale McGee ($4 million), DeMarcus Cousins ($3.5 million), Quinn Cook ($3 million), and Alex Caruso ($2.75 million).

Obviously, Los Angeles would've dealt for Davis—the key complement to LeBron in the championship run—regardless. But who knows which of those signings wouldn't have occurred sans Deng getting stretched, let alone how much each mattered.

Regardless, the Lakers' bill now comes due. Rather than just paying Deng's original contract, which would've ended this season, Los Angeles will incur $5 million cap hits each of the next two seasons.

The Lakers could also open considerable cap space in 2021, even around LeBron and Davis. Dropping Deng's $5 million cap hit could make the difference in whether a premier free agent joins Los Angeles that offseason.

There's no harm in the Lakers trying to gain this extra flexibility. But don't assume they'll get it.

LA stars shine, Dodgers win WS opener

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Clayton Kershaw, Cody Bellinger, Mookie Betts and the Los Angeles Dodgers left the Tampa Bay Rays stuck in neutral to start a most strange World Series played amid the pandemic.

Kershaw dominated for six innings, Bellinger and Betts homered and the Dodgers chased a wild Tyler Glasnow in the fifth inning for an 8-3 win Tuesday night in the first Series held at a neutral site.

A crowd limited by the coronavirus to 11,388 at Globe Life Field, the new $1.2 billion home of the Texas Rangers, marked the smallest for baseball's top event in 111 years.

"It's hard not to think about winning. It's hard not to think about what that might be like," Kershaw said. "Constantly keep putting that in your brain: tomorrow, win tomorrow, win tomorrow, win tomorrow. You do that three more times, and you can think about it all you want."

A regular season star with an erratic postseason history, Kershaw looked like the ace who so often stars on midsummer evenings with the San Gabriel Mountains behind him at Dodger Stadium. With these games shifted, the 32-year-old left-hander wound up pitching not far from his offseason home in Dallas.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner allowed one run and two hits, struck out eight and walked one. He induced 19 swings and misses among his 78 pitches -- more than his three previous Series starts combined.

"You can appreciate and totally see why he's heading to the Hall of Fame one day whenever he's done," Rays manager Kevin Cash said.

Kershaw threw nine balls in the first, when he stranded a pair of runners, then threw just nine more over the next three innings.

"He had a game plan to try to really quiet down things from there and he executed," said Kevin Kiermeier, who ended Kershaw's streak of 13 retired in a row with a fifth-inning homer that cut the Rays' deficit to 2-1.

Kershaw, a five-time ERA champ, improved to 2-2 in the World Series and 12-12 in postseason play, a shadow of his 175-76 regular season record.

Game 2 is Wednesday night. The Dodgers, who posted the best record in the majors during the shortened season and showed off all their stars in Game 1, plan to throw a collection of pitchers started by Tony Gonsolin against Rays ace Blake Snell.

Bellinger, the 2019 NL MVP who began the opener with a career .114 batting average in 12 World Series games, had put the Dodgers ahead in the fourth with a two-run homer off Glasnow, having no trouble driving a 98 mph pitch into the Dodgers bullpen in right-center.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws against the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning in Game 1 of the World Series Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020, in Arlington, Texas.

Bellinger, whose seventh-inning homer put the Dodgers ahead in Game 7 of the NL Championship on Sunday, raised an arm triumphantly while Glasnow turned and watched the ball sail out.

He shuffled his feet, tapping gently as he crossed the plate and celebrated while dancing back to the dugout, a sign he remembered popping his right shoulder during raucous revelry two nights earlier. Bellinger capped his evening by leaping at the 6-foot center field wall in the ninth, robbing Austin Meadows of a possible home run.

"I said it today before the game: If I hit one I'm not touching anybody's arm," Bellinger said. "I'm going straight foot, and it was pretty funny."

Betts, brilliant throughout October but slumping at the plate, added his first postseason homer for the Dodgers, a solo shot in the sixth off Josh Fleming.

Betts had two hits, scored two runs and stole two bases in the four-run fifth, when Corey Seager swiped one as Los Angeles became the first team to steal three bases in a Series inning since the 1912 New York Giants in Game 5 against Boston.

"Stolen bases are a thing for me. That's how I create runs and create havoc on the basepaths," he said.

After helping Boston beat the Dodgers in the 2018 Series, Betts was traded to LA before this season. The former AL MVP showed off his defensive skills in the NLCS with three terrific catches.

Los Angeles is in the Series for the third time in four years but seeking its first title since the Kirk Gibson- and Orel Hershiser-led team of 1988. Coming off an unusual LCS of games on seven straight days, the Dodgers planned an all-bullpen outing for the next game.

Tampa Bay's only previous Series was a five-game loss to Philadelphia in 2008.

After a regular season played without fans, MLB resumed selling tickets with a limited amount for the NLCS at Globe Life and kept that up by allowing about 28% of capacity to be filled at the 40,518 capacity ballpark, where the roof was open. The crowd was widely dispersed throughout and was the smallest for the Series since 10,535 attended Game 6 between the Pirates and Tigers at Detroit's Bennett Park in 1909, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

An overwhelming majority of fans wore Dodger blue.

"They're everywhere. They always come out," Kershaw said. "And so for as much as a game as we would have liked it to have been at Dodger Stadium and the 56,000 chanting, after everything that's gone on this season, to have a 10-, 11,000 people in the stands and the big Dodger fans, this is pretty cool and definitely helps us for sure. "

Glasnow was chased after 4 1/3 innings with an ominous pitching line that included three hits, six runs, six walks and eight strikeouts. He threw a career-high 112 pitches and became the first to walk six or more in a series game since Edwin Jackson of St. Louis in Game 4 of 2011.

Pandemic World Series draws smallest crowd in over century

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Julie and Lance Smith walked through the mostly empty concourse of Globe Life Field.

Tampa Bay infielder Joey Wendle is married to one of their cousins, and they weren't going to miss his World Series debut.

"It's so weird," said Julie Smith, 38, from Gadsden, Alabama.

"It's kind of nice in a way, too," Lance, 39, said before they headed to their seats in the first deck behind home plate.

They wore masks, but many fans ignored the requirement for facial coverings except while eating or drinking at their ticketed seats.

A crowd of 11,388 attended the Los Angeles Dodgers' 8-3 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in Tuesday night's World Series opener, spread in groups of up to four, mostly in alternate rows and none directly behind each other among the forest green seats.

That was the smallest Series crowd since 10,535 attended Game 6 in 1909 between the Tigers and Pittsburgh at Detroit's Bennett Park, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Major League Baseball planned to make about 28% available of the 40,518 capacity at the retractable-roof stadium of the Texas Rangers. The new $1.2 billion venue opened this year and replaced Globe Life Park, the team's open-air home from 1994 through 2019. During batting practice, through the new stadium's glass walls, the sun glistened off the red brick of the old stadium across the street beyond left field, a field now used for high school football.

Behind home plate, the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium gleamed like a spaceship.

World Series games are usually festive, packed early with fans celebrating the dual accomplishments of their team making it to baseball's ultimate stage and of their snagging hard-to-find tickets, usually displayed in plastic hanging from lanyard draped around their necks.

But this World Series had a surreal, at times somber feel caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic. The small crowd was supplemented with fan audio from stadium speakers.

'Cheaters are still working for Astros'

Jeff Luhnow, former general manager of the Houston Astros had his first interview since he was banned and fired in the fallout of the cheating scandal. It's been almost a year since the accusations surfaced and nine months since he and former manager AJ Hinch were punished for a cheating scandal that MLB said they had very little to do with.

The logistics of decoding signs from the video room were handled by employees and Luhnow said many are still working for the Astros.

"...It's pretty clear who was involved in the video decoding scheme, when it started, how often it happened, and basically when it ended. And it's also pretty clear who was not involved. And I don't know why that information, that evidence, wasn't discussed in the ruling, wasn't used. The people who were involved that didn't leave naturally to go to other teams are all still employed by the Astros," Luhnow said in an interview with Vanessa Richardson of Houston's KPRC.

"In fact, one of the people who was intimately involved, I had demoted from a position in the clubhouse to a position somewhere else, and after I was fired he was promoted back into the clubhouse. So none of those people faced any repercussions. They weren't discussed in the report, but the evidence is all there that they were involved."

Rookie QB Tagovailoa will start for Dolphins

MIAMI (AP)—Tua Tagovailoa now has a role to match his jersey number. He's the Miami Dolphins' No. 1 quarterback.

The former Alabama star will make his first NFL start next week for the Miami Dolphins, who are turning to him to replace Ryan Fitzpatrick, a person familiar with the team's decision said Tuesday.

The person confirmed the decision to The Associated Press on condition on anonymity because the Dolphins hadn't made an announcement.

The change by coach Brian Flores will come after the Dolphins' bye this week and has been long anticipated, but the timing is surprising because the team won its past two games to improve to 3-3. Tagovailoa will start at home against the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 1.

Tagovailoa made his pro debut in mop-up duty at the end of Miami's 24-0 victory Sunday over the New York Jets. He will become the 22nd quarterback to start for the Dolphins since Dan Marino retired following the 1999 season.

AP

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) looks to pass the ball during the second half of an NFL game against the New York Jets, Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

At Alabama, Tagovailoa wore Marino's No. 13. That Dolphins jersey is retired, and so Tagovailoa now wears No. 1.

Touted as a potential franchise quarterback, the dynamic Tagovailoa raises the profile of a team that has been off the NFL radar for much of the past two decades. He was drafted in April with the fifth overall pick—the highest choice Miami has devoted to a QB since Bob Griese in 1967.

Tagovailoa is coming back from a serious hip injury that cut short his Alabama career last November. The recovery slowed his preparation to assume a starting NFL job, as did the coronavirus pandemic that forced the cancellation of offseason drills and exhibition games.

"He has been thrown into a very difficult situation in that he didn't have any preseason, he didn't have really an offseason," Dolphins offensive coordinator Chan Gailey said Tuesday, shortly before the news of Tagovailoa's promotion broke.

Fitzpatrick, 37, described himself during training camp as a placeholder. He is being benched even though he ranks fifth in the NFL in completion percentage, and the Dolphins are on pace for their highest-scoring season since 1986 at 26.7 points per game.

Tagovailoa went 2 for 2 for 9 yards against the Jets.

"Under duress he made an accurate throw," Gailey said. "Then he sat in the pocket on third down and made a throw for a first down. For a guy that hadn't played a snap, those are real positives."

After the game, Tagovailoa spent several minutes sitting alone on the field and on his phone with his parents.

"It was exciting to get out there," he said. "The most important thing that came out of my conversation with my parents was just that they were happy to see me out there and playing again."

Tagovailoa also expressed gratitude Sunday for the support Fitzpatrick has given him.

"Good drive, bad drive, he comes to the sideline and just talks through his process with why he did some things," Tagovailoa said. "I'm very fortunate to have a mentor like him who is just very encouraging on the field, and he's just very personable off the field, as well."

Fans allowed at Saints home game

The New Orleans Saints announced on Tuesday a plan with Mayor LaToya Cantrell to allows fans to attend home games starting Sunday.

The Saints play the Carolina Panthers at the Superdome on Sunday, and 3,000 tickets will be made available to season ticket holders.

"Mayor LaToya Cantrell in partnership with the New Orleans Saints have agreed to a phased and deliberate pilot approach allowing fans to attend Saints games in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, beginning with this weekend's game against the Carolina Panthers," a team statement reads.

"Season ticket holders will have access to 3,000 tickets that will be distributed for the October 25th Carolina home game to be played at noon CT."

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for approval.

On top of the organizers' safety guidelines is limiting the number of participants per school. A series of qualifying races are also scheduled and schools and age groups competition are spread out to minimize crowding at the meet venue—the CPA Airport Field.

Each school is limited to six participants for every qualifying race, which will begin on Nov. 6. The first qualifier is for elementary (co-ed) with age groups including K-5, U7, U9, and U11. The 4:15pm start time is for Saipan International School, Brilliant Star School, Koblerville Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Saipan Community School. For the 5pm race, runners from Agape Christian School will compete against San Vicente, Kagan, Mt. Carmel School, and Isla Montessori. The same schools will continue the qualifying races on Nov. 13 and 20.

For the Nov. 7, 14, and 21 qualifiers, it will be the turn of the middle school (U12 and U14 age groups) and high school (U18) runners to hit the road. Races are also clustered by schools with the 6:30am race set for SIS, Agape, Marianas High School, and Mt. Carmel in the U18 girls division and followed by the boys group. The middle school runners from SIS, Agape, Francisco M. Sablan, Hopwood Middle School, Mt. Carmel, and SCS.

The qualifiers are slated to determine the runners that will advance to the elementary, middle school, and high school championship races, which are also scheduled separately. The elementary finals will take place on Dec. 4 (4:30pm), while the middle school and high school championship races will be held on Dec. 5, 6:30am for U18 and 7:20am for U14 runners.

In every race, runners are encouraged to observe social distancing measures. They will start in 12-foot wide premarked boxes, 6 feet away from each other and 3 feet from the inside of the box, and coaches are urged to put fast runners on the front spots. The course will also be widened to at least 6 feet at its narrowest point to maintain runners' distance as they navigate their way to the turning point and back to the start/finish line.

Once a runner has completed the course, he/she will be asked to leave the premises. No handshakes before and after the races and bibs will be issued to schools ahead of time to avoid or limit personal interaction during the event. Temperatures will be checked on race day and coaches are encouraged to do the same when holding practices.

The cross country races are part of NMA and PSS' joint events and usually attract hundreds of runners as before the pandemic there were no limits on the number of students allowed to compete in the qualifiers.

"Although this year's competitions will be much different than years past due to the pandemic, I fully believe that we can ensure a safe, fun experience for all," Gross said.

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same feat in holes No. 6, 8, and 11, respectively.

Meanwhile, MGA has a new member in Jerry Lin, who debuted last weekend with a net 77 score that put him in a tie for No. 15 to No. 18 place with Chris Leon Guerrero, Ned Norita, and Terlaje. MGA also had five guest players—Larry Philip, Peter Mendiola, Mr. PC, John Cepeda, and Sylvester Javier—participating in the October Ace event.

The association is halfway through the 2020-2021 season that started in May, but MGA is still accepting membership. New members annual fee is $40 and returning members is $30.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Marianas Golf Association October Ace tournament pose for group photo before heading out to course at the Kingfisher Golf Links last Saturday.

Woods faces most challenging event at Masters

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LA stars shine, Dodgers win WS opener

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Cross country season on

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Runners are bunched up as they leave the starting line during last year's Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series. This season's races will be way different with runners maintaining distance from each other all throughout the course.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The first major interscholastic event in the CNMI since the COVID-19 pandemic hit us will kick off next month with the staging of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series.

Nick Gross, director of the PSS Student Support Services Athletic Program, was quick to point out that this season's cross country event will be like no other, as safety of students and other stakeholders is the top priority. Restrictions will be strictly implemented to minimize if not fully prevent the risk of the spread of the virus.

Gross and the NMA board have drafted safety measures and protocols for the meet and a proposal has been submitted to the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and is now waiting

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Agape Christian School and Mt. Carmel School runners head to the finish line during last year's race.

Yamagishi secures MGA October Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas Golf Association tournament coordinator Calvin Yamagishi was awarded the October Ace after beating Gus Palacios in a scorecard tiebreak in last weekend's tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Yamagishi and Palacios recorded identical net scores of 70, one stroke behind October Ace top finisher Joey Dela Cruz, who fired a net 69. The 10-handicapper Dela Cruz posted a 39 on the front nine and 40 on the back for a gross 79, but since he had already won the August Ace, the second best placer got this month's award. Yamagishi, a 16-handicapper, played better in the first nine holes with his 41 compared to Palacios' 48 and still edged his foe in the last nine, 45-46 for a gross 86. Palacios owns a 24 handicap to end up with a gross 94.

Besides Palacios, Yamagishi, and Dela Cruz, 22 other MGA members joined last Oct. 17's competition at the Talafofo course, including closest to the pin winners Chris Groves, John Terlaje, Dung Tenorio, and Paul Kaipat.

Kaipat made the KP in hole No. 15, while Groves, Terlaje, and Tenorio had the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Calvin Yamagishi, seen here competing in a local tournament last year, won the Marianas Golf Association October Ace.